

Overview Committee

Thursday, 23 January 2025 at 10:30

County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

AGENDA

- | | | |
|----|---|----------|
| 1 | Minutes of the previous meetings held on | |
| a) | 21 November 2024 | 3 - 8 |
| b) | 5 December 2024 | 9 - 12 |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below) | |
| 4 | Budget Update Report 2025/26 | 13 - 32 |
| 5 | Annual Delivery Planning - Assurance and Next Steps | 33 - 56 |
| 6 | Current Approach to Artificial Intelligence in Nottinghamshire County Council | 57 - 64 |
| 7 | Outcome of Scrutiny Review: Blue Badges | 65 - 82 |
| 8 | Scrutiny Work Programmes | 83 - 118 |

Notes

- (1) Councillors are advised to contact their Research Officer for details of any Group Meetings which are planned for this meeting.
- (2) 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

- (3) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Council's Procedure Rules. Those declaring must indicate the nature of their interest and the reasons for the declaration.

Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact Sara Allmond (Tel. 0115 977 3794) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

- (4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.
- (5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar - <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx>

COUNCILLORS

Boyd Elliott (Chairman)
Glynn Gilfoyle (Vice-Chairman)

Mike Adams	Eric Kerry
Steve Carr	John Ogle
Jim Creamer	Philip Owen
Kate Foale	Francis Purdue-Horan
Mike Introna	Dave Shaw
Roger Jackson - apologies	

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Sinead Anderson substituted for Councillor Roger Jackson

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Scott Carlton Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health
Councillor Richard Jackson Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

OFFICERS

Sara Allmond	Advanced Democratic Services Officer
Martin Elliott	Senior Scrutiny Officer
Peter Gaw	CEO, Inspire
Katie Greenhalgh	Children's Category Manager
Derek Higton	Executive Director, Place
Aiden La Mola	Cultural Services Commissioning Manager
Nigel Stevenson	Service Director, Finance, Infrastructure and Improvement and Section 151 Officer
Mark Walker	Service Director, Place and Communities
Claudine White	Interim Group Manager, Trading Standards, Communities & Cultural Services
Gary Wood	Group Manager, Highways and Transport

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2024, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology was submitted from Councillor Roger Jackson (medical/illness).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

4. BUDGET UPDATE REPORT

Councillor Richard Jackson, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources introduced the report which provided an update on the budget development process for 2024/25.

The following information was provided in response to comments and questions asked by Members of the Committee:

- The funding gap was currently modelled at a total of £16 million over the next 3 financial years. Further work on this was being undertaken and everything would be done to reduce that figure before the budget report was due to come to Full Council in February. Notification of the local government funding settlement from Government was expected on 19 December 2024. How the national allocation would be split between councils was not yet known.
- The use of reserves to help manage the funding gap was appropriate as there were enough reserves available to do this, and it would help to protect front line services removing the cliff edge of funding ending by providing the reserves funding over a four year period. There was still £37 million in the general fund balance which helped to manage risks.
- In relation to additional money announced by the government for SEND provision, there had not yet been any information regarding how that additional funding would be allocated, and a fair share of that funding would be needed to meet ongoing costs.
- The Household Support Fund grant (HSF) could be used towards supporting some of those who were impacted by the changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance, however the fund was not large enough to help everyone and the fund had already been fully allocated towards other projects and that funding could not continue if the HSF was used differently. Members input on how the next phase of the HSF could be used going forward would be welcomed.
- The capital receipt for the sale of the land at Top Wighay would be in excess of £40 million and the Council needed to put utilities and the related infrastructure to the site in order to release that capital.

RESOLVED 2024/023

- 1) That the significant challenges presented by the financial landscape that the Council operates in be noted.
- 2) That the process in establishing the Council's budget for 2025/26 be noted.
- 3) That the considerations and comments made by Overview Committee on the current assumptions that have been made in the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy be noted.
- 4) That the following issues raised by the Committee in its consideration of the report be progressed:
 - a) That members of the Overview Committee carry out further scrutiny work on the implementation of the next phase of the Household Support Fund in a format to be agreed, in consultation with officers, by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Overview Committee.

5. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT – PERIOD 5 2024-25

Councillor Richard Jackson, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources introduced the report which provided an update on the current financial monitoring process and the Period 5 2024/25 report.

The following information was provided in response to comments and questions asked by Members of the Committee:

- Services in both Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care are demand led, and whilst the Council makes an allocation to their budgets each year, it is difficult to predict what the demand for the services will be. The departments work with their budgets to manage overspends overall.
- Tech enabled care has huge potential to support people to remain independent in their own homes for longer and is something the Council was investing in. There had been some slippage in the delivery of the project, meaning it would be delivered, but slightly later than originally anticipated.
- In joint commissioning, there was pressure on the NHS to save money, and for those care packages that required both social care and nursing care the Council was the commissioner for that joint package. The Council had been under pressure by the requests of the Integrated Care Board to reduce the cost of delivery of those, as well as considering what the definition of nursing care and social care support was going forward. These negotiations had been going on for at least 18 months, and the original pressure of £23 million NHS overspends in Nottinghamshire had already been reduced to £3 - 4 million. The negotiations would continue until up until the end of April before settling on the final lump sum and agreeing a clear definition of what the service would be going forward. The negotiations were going well and were not adversarial.

- Whilst the £5 million contingency was small compared to the Council budget, but it is a useful pot to cover unexpected matters, it is expected that not all of this will be spent.
- The realisation of capital receipts could slip, and it was important to ensure that the Council got best value from the sale of Top Wighay so this might take longer to realise as a result. The Council had not taken out any additional borrowing in 2024/25, if the capital receipts were not realised as expected the Council would have to change its assumptions regarding borrowing in the future. The slippage would only be a delay not less money.
- In relation to the Transport and Environment portfolio showing an underspend, this was due to home to school and SEND transport. Via was also further ahead in delivering its programme of works for 2024/25.

RESOLVED 2024/024

- 1) That the established processes for monitoring the budget be noted.
- 2) That the considerations and comments made by Overview Committee on the Period 5 2024/25 financial monitoring report be noted.

6. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LIBRARY STRATEGY REFRESH

Councillor Scott Carlton, Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health introduced the report which set out the draft Nottinghamshire Library Strategy 2025-2035.

The following information was provided in response to comments and questions asked by Members of the Committee:

- Members were advised that following the consultation, the current names of the tiers would be reinstated and it was clarified that there would be no closures to any libraries. The proposed changes to the names of the tiers had been to try and clarify what the different tiers meant, but this had caused some confusion and concern. Tiers three and four had been combined into a single tier three as they were seen as equal. No library had been downgraded from its position under the previous strategy.
- Members views on how to grow the service and enhanced delivery across the service and at individual libraries was welcomed by the Cabinet Member.
- Members were advised that if there were any plans to change opening hours at particular libraries, these would be consulted on locally before any changes were made.
- Members welcomed the draft strategy including the changes made following the consultation. Members thanked staff for their hard work and

dedication to providing a comprehensive library service across the County.

RESOLVED 2024/025

That the considerations and comments made by Overview Committee on the draft Nottinghamshire Library Strategy and the feedback from the related public consultation be noted.

7. INSPIRE – CULTURE, LEARNING AND LIBRARIES (MIDLANDS) CONTRACT

Councillor Scott Carlton, Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health introduced the report which sought views on the proposal that the Council direct award a short-term two-year contract to Culture, Learning and Libraries (Midlands) “Inspire”.

The following information was provided in response to comments and questions asked by Members of the Committee:

- Members were advised that two years was the maximum the contract could be extended by and following that extension a full procurement exercise would need to take place for the service going forward.
- Members were advised that the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) would become the commissioner for adult learning and skills and the extension of the contract for two years would correlate with that change in commissioner.

RESOLVED 2024/026

That the considerations and comments made by Overview Committee on the proposed direct award of a two-year contract to Culture, Learning and Libraries (Midlands) (trading as Inspire) on the same terms as their current contract, effective from 1 April 2026 - 31 March 2028, be noted.

8. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMMES

The Senior Scrutiny Officer, Martin Elliott, introduced the Committee’s current work programme. The work programmes for each of the select committees were also appended to the report.

RESOLVED 2024/027

- 1) That the Overview Committee work programme be noted.
- 2) That the work programmes of the three select committees be noted.
- 3) That Committee Members make any further suggestions for consideration by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for inclusion on the Overview Work

Programme, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and senior officers, subject to the required approval by the Chairman of Overview Committee.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm

CHAIRMAN

COUNCILLORS

Boyd Elliott (Chairman)
Glynn Gilfoyle (Vice-Chairman)

Mike Adams
Steve Carr
Jim Creamer
Kate Foale
Mike Introna
Roger Jackson

Eric Kerry
John Ogle
Philip Owen
Francis Purdue-Horan
Dave Shaw - apologies

OFFICERS

Sara Allmond	Advanced Democratic Services Officer
Martin Elliott	Senior Scrutiny Officer
Derek Higton	Executive Director, Place
Emily Holmes	Graduate Trainee
Nigel Stevenson	Service Director, Finance, Infrastructure and Improvement and Section 151 Officer

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology was submitted from Councillor Dave Shaw (medical/illness).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

3. EAST MIDLANDS COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY (EMCCA) UPDATE

Derek Higton, Executive Director, Place introduced the report which set out the scope of the relationship between Nottinghamshire County Council and the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA).

The following information was provided in response to comments and questions asked by Members of the Committee:

- Members were advised that the Council were represented on various EMCCA committees and was a member of the EMCCA Board and these

positions were the Council's opportunities to have an input in shaping the direction of EMCCA.

- Members were advised that public transport was the only area of responsibility that was transitioning up to EMCCA from the Council and there would be a transition period until April 2026 when it would formally transfer. This would mean that County Councillors would no longer be accountable for local public transport. Any correspondence and petitions from local residents regarding EMCCA matters should be directed to EMCCA to consider and respond to in the same way as matters relating to District / Borough Councils and national Government were currently signposted.
- Officers would consider how best to keep Members informed and up to date regarding the work of EMCCA, including considering adding information to the Members Hub.
- Members were advised that the Inclusive Growth Commission was self-determining and had a defined piece of work to develop a long term growth strategy. The Commission membership was made up of local, regional and national representatives with the skills and knowledge to develop the strategy. The Commission would be reporting back to the EMCCA Board in the Spring and would publish its final report later in 2025.
- Members were advised that in regard to how funding from the Mayor would be allocated across the region, the Council were proposing that clear regional priorities and a framework were agreed and funding be allocated according to that. This was felt to be a better approach for the region compared to creating a bidding system where the Council which submitted the best bid or shouted the loudest got the funding.
- Members were advised that the first six to seven months have been taken up by the setting up of EMCCA and its governance processes including recruiting staff into key posts.
- EMCCA Board papers had been published on 5 December and included plans to allocate £9.5 million of EMCCA funding across the region with Nottinghamshire receiving funding towards STEP Fusion.
- Members were advised that EMCCA had its own scrutiny function, of which Councillor Elliott was the Vice-Chairman, and whilst Overview Committee could invite the EMCCA Mayor, Claire Ward to attend a meeting, it did not have the power to formally scrutinise EMCCA as it was a separate authority.

RESOLVED 2024/028

- 1) That the work being carried out to establish the relationship between the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) and Nottinghamshire County Council be noted.

- 2) That the following issue raised by the Committee in its consideration of the report be progressed:
 - a) That web links to information on EMCCA, including information on the meetings of the EMCCA Board and of the other EMCCA committees, be made available on the Members Hub site.

The meeting closed at 11.43am

CHAIRMAN

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES

BUDGET UPDATE REPORT 2025/26

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Overview Committee on the budget development process for 2025/26 and provide the opportunity for members to raise any specific points for further consideration by Cabinet as part of the budget setting process.

Background

2. Overview Committee at its meeting on 21 November 2024 considered the Budget Update report that set out the financial context for the Council together with the implications for the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). This budget update report sets out the updated assumptions for the establishment of the budget for 2025/26.
3. In accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, Cabinet will be considering the Council's Budget for 2025/26 at its meeting on 6th February 2025 including proposals regarding Council Tax and the Adult Social Care Precept. Cabinet will also be considering the MTFS, the capital programme for 2025/26 to 2028/29, the supporting Capital Strategy and the Treasury Management Strategy for next year.

Long-Term Plan for Better Lives and a Sustainable Council

4. The Budget for 2025/26 continues to be set in a challenging financial environment for local government. The same economic hardship that affects individuals has a corresponding impact on councils. The cost of living crisis has increased the widespread need for council services, especially the services delivered to the most vulnerable residents.
5. This context sees a picture of increasing need, the challenge of inflation driving up the cost of delivering services and the national picture of limited funding support to local government. The options of increasing funding through council tax should be considered alongside the continued financial pressures faced by communities.
6. The crises facing local government today are not unique to 2025, many of them were equally true in both 2024 and 2023 and several have their roots in decisions made years before such as the systematic reductions in council funding since the early 2010s or the decisions that have led to serious and sustained delays in local audit across the sector.

7. There is a general consensus across local government that the financial landscape facing the sector is worse than it has ever been and is in urgent need of reform. A recent survey by the Local Government Information Unit found that over half of local authority respondents thought that they were likely to issue a Section 114 notice (i.e. effective bankruptcy) in the next five years with 9% indicating that they were likely to issue such a notice in the next year.
8. Overall, the position of increased funding being outpaced by the rise in cost and demand is leading many councils to elect to reduce or withdraw services towards the delivery of statutory or minimum service levels. Unfortunately, unless additional funding is provided to local government the inevitable direction will be towards limiting services.
9. Nottinghamshire County Council is better placed than many due both the sound fiscal management approach and the significant transformation of our services. This has enabled us to maintain to deliver our services whilst limiting the increase in council tax. The Council will continue with our aim to protect and enhance key services for residents whilst making our organisation financially sustainable for the medium to long term; using our reserves wisely to protect the Council as much as possible in the short to medium term and give the Council time to transform.
10. In the medium-term the overarching objective of the Councils budget strategy must be to try to deliver a balanced budget by deploying a framework which allows the Council to resize to a scale that matches its financial envelope. This must be achieved in a way that does not cut services for short-term expediency, but instead protects and supports residents, and to improve outcomes. This will require the Council to prioritise and enhance key services as far as possible, particularly in those most disadvantaged communities, to help improve the lives of local people, and mitigate the impacts of inflation to protect residents from withstanding the worst of these increased costs.
11. The longer-term financial sustainability comes by focusing on prevention and early help, thereby reducing the demand on expensive, acute services over time. This requires a longer-term view whereby the Council must reach a position, through transforming the way it delivers services over several years, where it is able to both offer more support within communities, and simultaneously be more efficient and effective with its spending.
12. The Council will focus on helping to build economic, community, family, and individual resilience so that there is more self-reliance and better outcomes for everyone across the county. We will continue to support people to remain independent and living within their home, family and community.
13. The Council is currently undertaking numerous service transformation programmes, aimed at improving the levels and efficacy of 'prevention' services. These programmes are supporting local residents to reduce the numbers of people needing the most acute and expensive services, with the aim of reducing demand on care in particular to sustainable levels. These actions, which are already beginning to bear fruit, both improve the lives of local people and offer a more sustainable way forward financially for the organisation.
14. It is in the interests of both the resident and Council for more people to be living independent lives supported by their community and local networks, including our own place-based services, rather than being reliant on our most expensive services such as residential care. Work will

particularly focus on improving services in those most disadvantaged communities, where the demand is highest and the need for support is greatest.

15. We have listened to our communities who ask for support rather than delivering or duplicating our services with partner organisations. Thus, through our budget we will help galvanise our communities to help support themselves to augment community services. It will include collaborating better with partners to be more efficient and effective with our services, joining things up to achieve better outcomes. It will include supporting young people to remain independent with extended family or community-based solutions, where outcomes are far better. We will focus our spend on early support for families within local areas, preventing the need for expensive residential care later. We will continue to make these kinds of changes limiting the blanket reductions and counter-intuitive short-term cuts.
16. Managing demand and helping people gradually increase their independence is a much more sustainable, and much more attractive, approach compared with making short term cuts to services. It will take time, and we have set out a long-term plan over the coming 10 years. These are broad themes and directions that will build resilience in our communities into the future and are supported by nine ambitions which will function as a framework for all County Council activity.
17. Our 2025/26 Budget will clearly show that our approach is already beginning to take shape. We are prioritising key service areas, moving money to the right places, and offering increased financial security for the rest of MTFs. Implementing our approach over time will help us to avoid the need for more drastic and difficult choices for the coming years, and to move beyond a difficult annual discussion about cuts or tax rises, towards something more sustainable.
18. Despite ongoing financial pressures from rising prices and demand for services, where increases in funding are still not enough to match the rise in costs, we are confident that we have a plan to navigate these challenges. We will do so in a way that protects residents from the impact of these pressures as far as possible and ensures that we continue to deliver our long-term transformation programme, so that we can make our services more sustainable for the future.

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy

19. The MTFs is a four-year rolling strategy which sets the framework for how the council plans to use its financial resources to fund the activities required to deliver on the council's priorities. The MTFs informs the annual budget process and assists the Council in meeting the legal requirement to set a balanced budget each year.
20. The MTFs brings together the key areas which affect the Authority's Revenue and Capital budgets and plans for these over the medium-term. The key objectives of the MTFs are as follows: -
 - To ensure that effective financial planning and management contributes to the Authority's achievement of its strategic ambitions,
 - To ensure that the Council is financially resilient, stable and sustainable for the future,
 - To forecast the resources available to the Council and to plan for the changes in the level of these resources over the life of the Strategy.

- To estimate the expenditure requirements over the life of the Strategy to ensure value for money is achieved and resources are utilised where outcomes are measurable and have real impact.

Financial Context

21. In recent years, the main drivers of pressure on the Council's budget have related to inflation and rising costs (including wage rises) and to increased demand for local government services. The impact upon the Council's finances as a result of the increase in overall costs is being replicated across the country. These pressures manifest despite a steady increase in overall, real terms Council funding since 2019/20, as the pace of these rising costs and demand have outstripped funding increases.
22. The strategic and financial planning for 2025/26 is being undertaken within the context of continued geopolitical uncertainty owing to the on-going conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East with a consequent impact in relation to global energy and food supplies. In addition, the continuing consequences of inflationary pressures have impacted on both the cost of delivering services and the demand for services as households and communities continue to struggle with the associated cost of living.
23. It necessarily follows that the national economic landscape continues to impact on the Council's MTFS. Although CPI inflation fell below the Government's 2% target in September 2024 to 1.7%, it rose to 2.6% in November 2024 and is forecast to edge up to 2.75% by the second half of 2025 as weakness in energy prices falls out of the annual comparison. Volatility in the market and forecasts of Bank of England maintaining higher interest rates for longer reflects continuing risk that inflation may again increase above the Government's target. Should the rate of inflation trend above the BoE target, and without a commensurate increase in financial resources, the spending power of the Council will become further eroded.
24. The risks arising from inflation, which is also impacting household incomes, was recognised in the Annual Budget Report to Full Council in February 2024. Additional reserves were set aside in the risk-based General Fund reserve with regard to inflationary pressures, increased on-going risks in Children's and Adults Service and inherent challenges faced specifically in the social care market following the pandemic.
25. The Council closely monitors developments across the local government landscape and takes account of the financial issues being reported by other authorities. There have been a number of Councils that continue to issue or warn of issuing Section 114 notices. This serves to highlight the underlying fragility and lack of resilience within the wider local government sector. Whilst some of the issues that plague Local Authorities are specific in nature (e.g. exposure to commercial risk, excessive levels of borrowing, Equal Pay Claims) it is the Section 151 Officer's focus to ensure that the issues faced by those councils at risk are not replicated in Nottinghamshire by a failure to set a robust and sustainable budget.
26. The Council is not immune to this overall decline in financial resilience across the sector and continues to face significant financial and service delivery pressures across its services as set out elsewhere in this report. It is therefore important to continue to work with partners across the sector to lobby Government for adequate and sustainable levels of funding for local government as a whole.

27. The County Council continues to be a part of nationally determined local government pay bargaining arrangements. These are negotiated by the National Joint Council made up from national employers and the recognised trade unions. The Pay Award for 2024/25 was agreed at a flat rate of £1,290 which equated to a 5.77% increase for the lowest paid staff. On 30 October 2024, the Government announced that the National Living Wage for 2025/26 will increase from £11.44 per hour to £12.21 per hour and will now apply to all over the age of 21 years. The impact of these announcements has been fed into the Council's MTFS.
28. There are a wide range of assumptions that have been made in relation to expenditure and income over the remainder of this financial year. The Corporate Leadership Team and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources receives monthly reports, whilst Cabinet receives quarterly reports on outturn forecasts throughout the year.
29. As part of the budget setting process a review of the capital programme has been undertaken. The current projected capital programme outturn for 2025/26 is £143.9m.
30. The provisional Local Government Settlement for 2025/26 was announced on 18 December 2024. The MTFS has subsequently been updated to reflect the announcements set out in the settlement. The Government announced a further one-year settlement as in previous years meaning that the clear view of funding provided for 2025/26 is offset by considerable funding uncertainty for the final three years of the MTFS. This will continue to be the case until announcements regarding the longer-term future of local government financing are forthcoming.

Budget Survey 2024 – Investing in Nottinghamshire: Supporting People

31. The production of the Council's budget is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.
32. A key element of the Council's budget setting process is consultation with stakeholders.
33. The 2024 consultation went live on the 30 September 2024 and closed on the 10 November 2024. The survey set out how the council spends its allocated budget and asked Nottinghamshire residents for their views about our services, their priorities and opportunities to reduce spend or raise additional revenue.
34. The consultation was publicised through a number of platforms including:
- Nottinghamshire County Council website
 - social media, including X, Facebook and Instagram
 - targeted communications to Town and Parish Councils as well as to the business community
 - email bulletins to the Council's subscribers
 - and in print at Libraries.
35. The Council received 3,072 responses to the 2024 Budget Survey, which reflects 1 in every 275 Nottinghamshire residents having taken part. This response rate is understood to be higher on average when compared to comparable budget consultations across other local authorities.

36. There was a focussed effort to increase the engagement of young people in the budget survey in 2024, with 153 young people under 18 completing the survey, compared with 1 in 2023, and a further 441 young people engaging in facilitated sessions led by the Young People’s Service, to explore the budget. This brings the total number of residents who engaged in the 2024 budget consultation exercise to 3,513, compared with 3,911 in 2023.

37. Some of the main headlines coming from the Budget Survey 2024 are as follows: -

- The majority of respondents were positive about their local area as a place to live, with 66% specifically saying that they are ‘very or fairly satisfied’.
- When ranking the three Nottinghamshire County Council services in order according to the services that benefit respondents the most, community and public transport was the service area most often identified by respondents.
- Most respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed when asked whether the Council should reduce spend on a range of services outlined in the survey document to help meet the financial challenge.
- Overall, 61% of respondents would support an increase in council tax – 40% up to the referendum limit permitted at the time of 2.99% and 21% would support an increase by lower than the referendum limit.
- Overall, 66% of people completing the survey would support an increase in the Adult Social Care Levy – 41% by the maximum level currently permitted of 2%, whilst 25% would support an increase by a lower level permitted.

38. The outcomes from the Annual Budget Survey 2024 were reported to Cabinet on 19 December 2024. Further details and analysis regarding the outcomes can be found by referring to the December Cabinet report.

39. Cabinet will take account of the consultation responses when drawing up firm proposals to the Council.

February 2024 Budget Position

40. When the Council’s budget was approved in February 2024 the funding shortfall identified for the three years to 2027/28 totalled £36.0m. This financial position is shown in Table 1 below: -

Table 1 – Medium-Term Financial Strategy as at February 2024

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m
Net Budget Requirement	638.8	651.0	687.0	699.6
Financed by :				
Business Rates	144.3	144.3	144.3	144.3
Revenue Support Grant	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6
Council Tax	415.3	430.8	446.8	463.4
Adult Social Care Precept	67.3	67.3	67.3	67.3
Collection Fund Surplus / (Deficit)	3.3	-	-	-
Total Funding	638.8	651.0	667.0	683.6
Funding Shortfall	-	-	20.0	16.0
Cumulative Funding Shortfall	-	-	20.0	36.0

The Council's Current Financial Position

41. As reported to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, as at Period 7, the Council reported a forecast overspend of £0.9m in the current financial year. This out-turn is comprised of a net £13.5m portfolio overspend mainly as a result of forecast overspends in Adult and Children's Social Care services. This forecast overspend is offset by underspends in central items such as interest and Section 31 Business Rates relief.
42. There are a number of on-going risks that are also set out in the Period 7 Financial Monitoring Report. As such, the financial position will be kept under close review for the remainder of the financial year and reported to Cabinet or the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources according to the budget monitoring timetable.

Main Risks

43. Within the MTFS a number of assumptions are made with regard to a wide variety of factors including future Council Tax policy, Business Rates income and Government Grant levels. Any variation from these assumptions has implications for the level of resources available to the Council.

The following key risks must also be managed in order to deliver our budget strategy: -

- **Economic Risks** – underlying risks caused by the aftermath of global energy and fuel inflation and associated cost of living crisis compounded by national economic issues. Although CPI inflation fell to the Government's 2% target in June 2024, it has since increased back above the target. Volatility in the market and forecasts of Bank of England maintaining higher interest rates for longer reflects that there continues to be a risk that inflation may remain above target.
- **Risks to Funding** – Indication of Government's medium-term future spending plans are uncertain. Consequently, the spending intentions for local government could differ from assumptions contained in the MTFS. Any differences will, in turn, impact on the level of resources available to the Council. Furthermore, there remain uncertainties around Business Rates reform, the Government's Fair Funding review, and also the Government's intentions for the future funding of social care.
- **Demand and Demography Risk** - This Medium-Term Financial Strategy contains risks surrounding the estimation of demand and demographic pressures within services such as Adult Social Care and Children's Services, including determination of key income budgets that rely on the number of users of a service and risk that inflation on the cost of demand and demography will be higher than assumed in the MTFS.
- **Political Landscape** - Following the General Election, the new administration's first King's Speech laid out forty proposed bills under six themes that set out the Government's main priorities in this Parliament. These were Economic Stability and Growth (in which devolution to the Mayoral Combined Authorities was a prominent proposal), Britain becoming a clean energy superpower, creating secure borders and cracking down on anti-social behaviour (with local authorities taking a prominent role), breaking down the barriers to opportunity, health, and national security. The focus on

these priorities inevitably impacts on the Government's expectations of the role of local government and the areas for which funding is made available.

Revisions to the MTFS

44. The following sections of the report set out the revisions that were made to the MTFS between the 2024/25 Budget Report that was agreed at Full Council in February 2024 and the Budget Update Report presented to Cabinet in November 2024.

45. The updated MTFS reported to Cabinet on 7 November 2024 is shown in Table 2: -

Table 2 - MTFS at November 2024

	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	Total £m
Year on Year Savings requirement (February 2024 Report)	-	20.0	16.0	36.0
Increase in Service Pressures	17.2	7.2	8.5	32.9
Change in Inflation	(2.6)	(1.3)	(1.2)	(5.1)
Change in Grant Funding	(10.8)	7.3	-	(3.5)
Amendments to Portfolio base budgets	(2.0)	-	-	(2.0)
Revised Shortfall	1.8	33.2	23.3	58.3
Additional pressure with assumed NLW rate of £12.39p/h	11.7	3.1	3.1	17.9
Adjusted Shortfall	13.5	36.3	26.4	76.2

46. **Pay Award** - The existing MTFS includes pay award assumptions of 3.0% in 2025/26 and for 2% each subsequent year to 2028/29.

47. **Pressures and Inflation** - As part of the budget setting process, departments were asked to justify existing pressures and inflation that are approved in the current approved MTFS. In addition, they were asked to consider uncertainties not previously reflected in the budget planning assumptions. It is important to note that, as a result of transformation activities that have taken place across the Council, a number of mitigation measures have been identified which lessen the impact of the identified pressures. The increase in pressures and inflation bids received by Departments were set out in the report to Cabinet in November 2024.

48. **Reserves** – it should be noted that the deficit position reported to Cabinet was on the assumption of using £45.0m of earmarked reserves across the MTFS period.

Further Revisions to the MTFS Assumptions

49. The following sections of the report set out the revisions to the MTFS since the Budget Update to Cabinet in November. This follows the announcements made in the Autumn Statement that

was delivered on 30th October 2024 and the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement that was announced on 18 December 2024.

50. **Pressures and Inflation** – following the Autumn Statement, the assumptions have been revised following confirmation that the National Living Wage (NLW) will be increasing by 6.7% to £12.21. Based on our previous assumption of £11.89, this equates to an additional pressure across the MTFS of £11.9m. It was also announced that there would be an increase to the rate for Employers National Insurance (NI) contributions from 13.8% to 15% coupled with a reduction in the payment threshold from £9,100 to £5,000. This is estimated to have a direct impact on our payroll costs in the region of £4.5m however there is a commitment that Central Government will provide an unknown element of compensatory funding to nullify the impact.
51. However, Members should be aware that the indications are there will be insufficient extra funding for the impact on our supply chain of both NI and NLW. This generates two risks for the Council; a financial one should our supply chain seek to pass on these increases to us in the form of higher charges, but also a risk of providers failing under these pressures. It is prudently estimated that the effect of the NI changes alone on our Adult social care providers could range between £10-16m.
52. Departments have continued to firm up the assumptions on which the pressures bids are predicated on latest available information to ensure sufficient assurances have been gained in relation to accuracy and completeness. As such, pressures have been revised across a number of Portfolios based on this latest information and Appendix A reveals a further net increase of £20.9m across the MTFS since the update the Cabinet in November.
53. As a consequence, Appendix A now shows that since the budget was approved in February 2024, Pressures and inflation have increased by £48.7m across the MTFS to 2027/28. The detail shows that demand pressures have increased by £20.5m in 2025/26 mainly due to a forecast increase of £9.0m in the Children and Families portfolio which reflects growth in Looked After Children and Social Work staffing. In addition, there is a forecast increase of £9.4m in the Adult Social Care portfolio which reflects growth in Care Package demand. Furthermore, Inflation accounts for an increase of £13.6m in 2025/26, primarily due to the NLW and NI increases already referenced above.
54. The MTFS recognises the increasing demography and consequential demand pressures for services in Adult Social Care and Children and Families; both of which are based upon various assumptions that evolve throughout the budget cycle. The key assumptions that underly the significant pressures upon our services can be summarised as follows:

Childrens & Families

<u>Key Assumptions</u>	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	TOTAL £000
Growth in External Placements for LAC	9,543	2,831	2,761	15,135
<p>This is primarily an activity pressure due to the continued increase the number of children in LA care that need to be placed in expensive externally commissioned provision due to an increase in the complexity in presenting needs, alongside a decrease in internal fostering placements. This is not unique to Nottinghamshire; it is a widely recognised nationwide issue.</p> <p>The availability of suitable places also has a bearing on the weighted average cost of new placements - an increased demand for places that outstrips the market's capability and willingness to provide sufficient capacity which in turn pushes up cost. The forecast overspend in 2024-25 (£7.7m as at Pd8) is driven by increasing number of high cost placements and the overall increase in % of children in external residential care, rather than an overall growth in numbers of young people in care.</p> <p>There has been a progressive decrease in children placed with internal foster carers month on month which has also led to a less favourable placement mix.</p>				

Adult Social Care

<u>Key Assumptions</u>	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	TOTAL £000
Care Package Demand for Adults Aged 18-64 Years	7,138	7,138	7,138	21,414
<p>The budget pressure for this service is due to an increase in demand and complexity of working age adults 65 years and under, and for those young adults who require support to prepare for adulthood.</p> <p>Better healthcare in childhood means people with complex physical and learning disabilities are more likely to live into adulthood and while increased numbers of people with profound disabilities are small, the individual costs can be very high. This impacts on those coming from children's services into adults (transitions).</p> <p>The assumptions that drive the pressure are based on projections in relation to Supply/provision of accommodation coupled with the evidence of increasing demand and cost of care packages utilising a "predicted needs" methodology.</p>				

<u>Key Assumptions</u>	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	TOTAL £000
National Living Wage - External	18,244	10,550	10,690	39,484
<p>The National Living wage is increased each year, the current rate is £11.44. Rates used for 25/26 £12.21 (Actual), 3% inflation for 26/27 = £12.58 and 3% inflation for 27/28 = £12.95.</p> <p>The increase in the NLW has only been applied to the employees' costs and the profit element and has not included an increase for inflation on other overheads. This means that the % applied is diluted. The pressure assumes that all employees are over 25 or paid at the over 25 rate.</p>				

55. **Grant Funding** – On 18 December 2024, the provisional Local Government Settlement 2025/26 was announced via a written ministerial statement by the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, Jim McMahon MP. The key grant announcements that will affect the Council are as follows:

	2025/26	Grants Rolled-in	Net % Change
	£m	£m	
New Homes Bonus	1.2	-	20.0%
Social Care Grant	84.9	-	17.3%
RSG	9.9	(1.2)	1.2%
Children's Social Care Prevention Grant	2.9	-	100.0%
Core Grants	98.9	(1.2)	

56. The impact of these changes is set out below in Table 3 with a revised gap of £8.9m predicted in 2025/26 after using £20.5m of earmarked reserves. However, there remains a number of on-going risks that will impact the 2025/26 budget setting process and consequently all base budgets will continue to be reviewed along with the financial planning assumptions that underpin the MTFs. Any changes will be detailed in the Draft Annual Budget Report to Cabinet in February 2025 and confirmed at the Full Council meeting later that month.

Table 3 - MTFs at December 2024

Dec - Post Provisional LG Statement	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	Total £m
Year on Year Savings requirement (February 2024 Report)	-	20.0	16.0	36.0
Increase in Service Pressures	20.5	7.0	7.7	35.2
Increase in Inflation	13.6	-	-	13.6
Change in Pay / Pension Related Inflation	4.7	0.2	0.2	5.1
Amendments to Portfolio base budgets	0.9	0.2	-	1.1
Change in Grant Funding	(30.8)	1.2	-	(29.6)
Revised Gap*	8.9	28.6	23.9	61.4
Embedded Use of Earmarked Reserves*	-20.5	-11.8	-9.5	(41.8)

Future Options & Sensitivities

57. **Reserves** – a robust reserve strategy underpins the delivery of the MTFs, however it is acknowledged that the use of reserves does not represent a sustainable solution to budget management. The Council will once again be targeting reserves to allow time for more transformative approaches to be developed and implemented. Reserves provide a short-term fix, but their use only delays the requirement for a permanent solution. The Council also needs to maintain an appropriate level of reserves to guard against unforeseen events and target those reserves responsibly using a profile that effectively “buys time” by feeding balances into the MTFs and thus preventing an inevitable cliff edge. Reserves will therefore be varied to balance the budget and provide temporary relief to facilitate achievement of Transformation

and associated delivery of required savings. The MTFS approved in February 2024 included the planned use of earmarked reserves totalling £41.8m across the 3-year period.

58. A review of all reserves has already been undertaken and the results will be presented as part of the budget approval process. As previously reported, in recent years additional reserves were set aside in the risk-based General Fund with regard to inflationary pressures, increased on-going risks in Children’s and Adults Services and challenges faced specifically in the social care market following the pandemic. The balance on the General Fund at 31st March 2024 was £36.9m and the Section 151 Officer is required to recommend a level of proposed General Fund balance in 2025/26 that is regarded as acceptable cover for any reasonable level of unforeseen events.
59. **Council Tax** – It is prudent to consider all decisions in relation to reserves in conjunction with the relative effect of decisions relating to Council Tax. The MTFS approved in February 2024 included a 1.99% increase to Council Tax from 2025/26 to 2027/28 with no uplift in Adult Social Care Precept (ASCP). Decisions on setting such levels are taken on an annual basis and both Council Tax and ASCP policies will be reviewed. The Provisional Local Government Settlement confirmed that councils will be permitted to raise core Council Tax by 2.99% and ASCP by 2.00% in 2025/26 in line with the 2024/25 referendum principles. The indication is that these limits will be applicable for the remainder of this Parliament and thus will extend across this MTFS.
60. It is also worth noting that, from 2025/26, there has been a change in the regulations that set out the required presentation of Council Tax bills. The Council Tax (Demand Notices and Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 has removed the requirement for billing authorities to provide bespoke information about Adult Social Care Precept on Council Tax demand notices and information supplied with demand notices. For Adult Social Care authorities, Council Tax demand notices will now show a single line for its total cash charge and annual increase, with one cash figure and one percentage figure.
61. Whilst the Authority is confident of balancing the budget in 2025/26, Table 3 above shows the significant financial challenge facing the Council in 2026/27 and beyond. Together with opportunities to alter Council Tax and Adult Social Care precept in 2025/26, further mitigations and savings options will be required to be considered by Cabinet in February.
62. The following table sets out the impact that different levels of 2025/26 Council Tax increases will have on the MTFS: -

Table 4 – Council Tax Sensitivity – Incremental Yield

	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	Total £m
Zero Increase	(9.7)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(10.3)
1.99% Increase = Current Assumption	-	-	-	-
4.99% Increase = Maximum Permitted	14.7	0.5	0.5	15.6

63. **Tax Base** – As new houses are built the Council Tax base increases. Over the last 5 years the growth rate has fluctuated due, in part, to the challenging economic climate. The Council taxbase is predicated on information provided by District and Borough councils which calculates the number of Council Tax band D equivalent residential properties in Nottinghamshire less any discounts and exemptions that must be applied according to statute. Taxbase information will be provided by 15 January 2025 and the MTFS will be updated accordingly to reflect the reported figures. A forecast growth assumption of 1.20% per annum has been factored into the MTFS which translates into £5.8m of Council Tax yield for 2025/26 independent of any additional increase to the Council Tax or ASCP rate. The sensitivity of this assumption in terms of effect on forecast council tax income is as follows:

Table 5 – MTFS Taxbase Sensitivity

2025/26	Growth	Taxbase Yield (£m)	Change (£m)
	1.00%	4.8	- 1.0
	1.10%	5.3	- 0.5
Current Assumption	1.20%	5.8	-
	1.30%	6.3	0.5
	1.40%	6.8	1.0
	1.50%	7.2	1.4

64. **Savings and Ancillary Levy** – Previously approved savings totalling £12.9m are included within the MTFS. A further ancillary levy of £2.0m across Departments has been included in 2025/26.

65. It is clear from the information set out in Table 3 that savings will be required to help mitigate the medium to long-term funding shortfall within the MTFS. As such, work will continue to be undertaken over the coming weeks and months to identify further savings proposals and to identify themes of work where further savings options can be explored. Work will also continue over the coming weeks to confirm the final assumptions surrounding the pressures and inflation before finalising the MTFS.

The English Devolution Bill – Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation

66. The Government published its anticipated English Devolution White Paper on 16 December 2024. The Paper contains a range of proposals relating to the way in which devolution can be expanded within England and Wales, building on the Mayoral and non-Mayoral Combined Authority and Combined County Authority Models. It also proposed a shift in how Local Government is organised, with an emphasis on unitarisation.

67. Consequentially, the Government expects all two-tier areas such as Nottinghamshire to develop proposals for local government restructure (LGR) in their area. The Government wish to deliver this process as soon as possible and anticipate legislating where necessary to ensure progress. This commitment to making reorganisation happen rather than leaving proposals to emerge solely from local impetus is a distinct change from past Government policy.

68. Government expects the delivery of high quality and sustainable public services to be the priority above all else and that citizens will be empowered through new and innovative

approaches to neighbourhood involvement and community governance. This is a clear indication that this is as much about overall financial sustainability of local government as it is about improved governance and services in the area.

69. However, it should be recognised from experience in forming unitary councils elsewhere the benefits, including financial, take time to be achieved. This may be at the end of the current MTFS and in constructing the Budget for 2025/26 we recognise the potential implications of LGR but have made no assumptions about the likely financial benefits in the MTFS and have assumed any initial costs in developing any business case will be contained within existing resources.

Implications for how Nottinghamshire County Council will operate in the future

70. The Council is operating in a global, national and regional context, which creates great opportunity and some challenges. With our track record in change and transformation the Council is well positioned to look to the future. To secure a sustainable and financially resilient forward position, it will be critical for the Council to continue to change and transform how it operates to respond to additional projected financial pressures. However, it must be recognised that continuous improvement alone will not be enough to ensure our ongoing sustainability. We will need to mobilise all the talent and creativity across the Council to innovate, reform and take advantage of new opportunities, whilst maintaining the delivery of high-quality services and mitigating the risks to delivery of our ambitions as a Council. In addition, over the coming year the Council and local councils will need to respond to the English Devolution Bill.

71. As a future of local government structures in Nottinghamshire is developed for the longer term, there continues the need for the Council to build on the existing plan for the future shape of the organisation and retain a focus on the longer-term ambitions in the Nottinghamshire Plan:

- **Driving local public service reform** – the Council already has the foundations in place to maximise the opportunities of working collaboratively with the newly formed East Midlands County Combined Authority (EMCCA), the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and other key partners such as District and Parish Councils, schools and the voluntary and community sector. The deepening of these strategic partnerships has helped us on our continuing journey of reducing duplication and focusing collective partnership resources on tackling the multiple causes that prevent all communities from experiencing the best possible outcomes. These Programmes of work are being developed, building on the existing organisational change portfolio, that focus on improving outcomes and addressing financial pressures in the key areas of statutory support for children, young people and young adults with special educational needs and disabilities, support for children in care or on the edge of care and support to adults with care and support needs. The additional investment in the national families first partnership programme is aimed at earlier intervention, supporting families as well as reform of the children’s social care market.
- **Re-shaping the organisation in a sustainable manner** – reflecting the changing need and impacts upon service delivery it is vital that we review our organisational design principles will ensure the organisation has the right leadership, capacity and capability to achieve our statutory outcomes and fulfil a place leadership role across the local public service system for Nottinghamshire. The Council will continue to assess service delivery models, ensuring we provide or commission services that meet statutory duties

as efficiently and effectively as possible through targeted service reviews. Our partnership with Microsoft through the local government early adopters programme has enabled a consistent approach to exploiting the increased use of new technologies and digital tools to bring artificial intelligence (AI), automation and integrated systems more prominently into our operating model. Significant investment will be needed over the coming years to ensure we build upon our investment in our major systems and further exploit AI technology. Additionally, we will continue to review our services to ensure we have the right skills-mix, ensure we continue to have efficient front-line and centralised services, and further rationalisation of our office and service estate.

- **Strengthening the building blocks of good health and wellbeing in communities** – we will continue to invest in early help and prevention and direct our available resources to focus support on the people and communities that will benefit most from the support and services we offer. We believe that this approach will build resilience and independence, reducing demand over time for County Council statutory services, and those of other statutory public sector agencies. The Council can draw collective knowledge and insight together, working with people, partners and communities, to co-create solutions and new approaches to community-based interventions. We will continue to work with partners, including Health, the voluntary and community sector, district and parish councils, and schools to support and grow the strengths and assets in our communities.
- **Re-defining our relationship with schools** - The Council has a strong and positive relationship with Multi Academy Trusts and schools across the County, a relationship we will continue to nurture and strengthen. There is a great deal of pride in the way the Council and schools ensure children and young people get the best start in life and grow their future. Since the summer, the Government has since made announcements and published a two significant Bills affecting schools and SEND, including the removal of funding for voluntary academy conversion, the presumption regarding establishment of new schools being academies and significant reform of SEND provision and entitlement. We provide several essential services to schools and academies, and it is important that these are provided at best value for both the schools and the council taxpayer, even when these meet the Council's statutory duty. For those services that are discretionary, carry financial risk or are not financially viable, we will continue to consider whether the County Council is best placed to deliver these services in the current format or a redesigned model or, where there are other providers already in the market providing these services to schools, whether the Council should collaborate appropriately.

72. The above paragraphs set out the progress of the MTFs and impact on the budget gap. Assumptions will continue to be updated as we progress through the budget setting process. Final Local Government Finance Settlements and grant announcements are expected in January 2025 but the key date above all else is the Council meeting on 27 February 2025 and prior to that the Cabinet meeting on 6 February 2025. The report to Cabinet will set out the Council's final budget proposals in order to set a balanced budget for 2025/26.

Budget 2025/26 Key Milestones

73. The key milestones associated with the 2025/26 budget setting process are set out in the table below: -

Activity / Meeting	Date
Final Local Government Settlement	Late January 2025
Tax Base Information from District	15 January 2025
Overview Committee	23 January 2025
Draft Budget Report to Cabinet	6 February 2025
Full Council - Annual Budget Report 2024/25	27 February 2025

Equalities Impact Assessment

74. When setting the budget, the Council must be mindful of the potential impact on service users.

75. The Equality Act 2010 imposes an obligation on Members to have due regard to protecting and promoting the welfare and interests of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age; disability; gender re-assignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation).

76. An initial high-level Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) in relation to the Council's proposed Revenue Budget Report 2025/26 will be undertaken at a corporate level to identify any potential areas where there is a significant risk of adverse impact. This will outline the overall likely impacts upon different groups based on those areas which may have been identified for savings. Where a significant risk of adverse impact is identified this would then be subject to a full Equality Impact Assessment process prior to Cabinet decisions on individual services.

77. As set out above, this is an initial high-level assessment recognising potential future impacts. In tackling a budget deficit whilst ensuring continued value for money as the Council delivers its priorities, the Council will in future need to consider budget savings. Any resulting savings may result in reductions or changes to frontline services, which directly affect the people of Nottinghamshire. Many of the Council's services are targeted at particular groups including older people, people with disabilities, children and younger people and families. These services command the largest parts of the Council's budget. Detailed savings options are yet to be determined and if implemented are likely to be subject to more detailed consultation on the specific proposals.

78. The initial EIA will also reflect upon the ongoing work to develop a cumulative impact analysis and to consider the linkages between the Council's budget savings and those being made elsewhere in Government and by other public sector partners.

Statutory and Policy Implications

79. 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

where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Other Options Considered

80. This report provides an update of the Budget together with confirming the approach to reviewing the budget for 2025/26.

Reasons for Recommendations

81. To provide information to Overview Committee on the Council's approach to the budget setting process and the current assumptions behind the budget and provide the opportunity for the Committee to feedback any specific points on the Budget for 2025/26.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That Overview Committee considers: -
 - a) The assumptions that underpin the development of the 2025/26 Annual Budget Report and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
 - b) Any specific issues around the development of the 2025/26 Annual Budget Report and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy that it would like to refer to Cabinet for further consideration.

Councillor Richard Jackson
Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

Constitutional Comments (GR 09/01/2025)

82. Pursuant to the Nottinghamshire County Council Constitution this Committee has the delegated authority to receive this report.

Financial Comments (GB 09/01/2025)

83. The financial implications are set out within 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.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

Summary of Budget Pressures

Approved February 2024

Revised Proposals

Change

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	TOTAL	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	TOTAL	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	TOTAL
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Children & Families												
Non Looked After Children Placements	230	237	237	704	500	237	237	974	270	-	-	270
Growth in External Placements for LAC	1,582	495	495	2,572	9,543	2,831	2,761	15,135	7,961	2,336	2,266	12,563
Social Work Staffing	(1,290)	-	-	(1,290)	(679)	(611)	-	(1,290)	611	(611)	-	-
Small Contracts	-	-	-	-	128	28	-	156	128	28	-	156
Subtotal Children & Families Pressures	522	732	732	1,986	9,492	2,485	2,998	14,975	8,970	1,753	2,266	12,989
Education & SEND												
Demographic Pressures - Edn, Health & Care Plans (ICDS)	209	230	230	669	1,800	312	343	2,455	1,591	82	113	1,786
Education Psychology Service	108	49	-	157	882	213	(357)	738	774	164	(357)	581
Subtotal Education & SEND Pressures	317	279	230	826	2,682	525	(14)	3,193	2,365	246	(244)	2,367
Adult Social Care												
Care Package Demand for Adults Aged 65 and Over	409	2,681	2,681	5,771	2,880	2,410	3,170	8,460	2,471	(271)	489	2,689
Care Package Demand for Adults Aged 18-64 Years	1,323	1,470	1,470	4,263	7,138	7,138	7,138	21,414	5,815	5,668	5,668	17,151
Preparing for Adulthood - Workforce	348	174	174	696	-	-	-	-	(348)	(174)	(174)	(696)
ASCH Day Service Fleet Recharge	100	100	100	300	100	100	-	200	-	-	(100)	(100)
DOLS	-	-	-	-	1,496	-	-	1,496	1,496	-	-	1,496
Subtotal Adult Social Care Pressures	2,180	4,425	4,425	11,030	11,614	9,648	10,308	31,570	9,434	5,223	5,883	20,540
Transport and Environment												
Mainstream Home to School Contracts - Growth	400	400	400	1,200	400	320	320	1,040	-	(80)	(80)	(160)
SEND Transport Growth	2,000	700	700	3,400	1,708	556	556	2,820	(292)	(144)	(144)	(580)
Waste PFI Contract Growth	100	100	100	300	100	100	100	300	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Transport and Environment Pressures	2,500	1,200	1,200	4,900	2,208	976	976	4,160	(292)	(224)	(224)	(740)
Total Pressures	5,519	6,636	6,587	18,742	25,996	13,634	14,268	53,898	20,477	6,998	7,681	35,156
Children & Families Inflation												
National Living Wage - External	73	54	54	181	175	78	78	331	102	24	24	150
Basic Fostering Allowance	99	102	100	301	109	70	74	253	10	(32)	(26)	(48)
Contract Cost Inflation	2,432	2,720	2,720	7,872	2,157	3,177	3,333	8,667	(275)	457	613	795
Subtotal Children & Families Inflation	2,604	2,876	2,874	8,354	2,441	3,325	3,485	9,251	(163)	449	611	897
Adult Social Care Inflation												
Fair Price for Care	3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000	1,046	1,046	1,046	3,138	(1,954)	(1,954)	(1,954)	(5,862)
National Living Wage - External	11,901	8,673	8,673	29,247	18,244	10,550	10,690	39,484	6,343	1,877	2,017	10,237
NI - Pass through to Service Providers	-	-	-	-	9,773	-	-	9,773	9,773	-	-	9,773
Subtotal Adult Social Care Inflation	14,901	11,673	11,673	38,247	29,063	11,596	11,736	52,395	14,162	(77)	63	14,148
Economic Development and Asset Management Inflation												
Schools PFI Inflation	120	120	120	360	120	120	120	360	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Economic Development and Asset Management Inflation	120	120	120	360	120	120	120	360	-	-	-	-
Transport and Environment Inflation												
Mainstream Home to School Contracts	330	225	150	705	263	144	144	551	(67)	(81)	(6)	(154)
SEND Transport Inflation	1,200	950	900	3,050	1,490	1,008	861	3,357	290	56	(39)	307
Highways Energy	150	150	150	450	150	150	150	450	-	-	-	-
Waste PFI Contract Inflation	1,410	1,410	1,410	4,230	1,410	1,410	1,410	4,230	-	-	-	-
Contract Cost Inflation - VIA	1,087	482	750	2,319	271	232	566	1,069	(816)	(250)	(184)	(1,250)
Subtotal Transport and Environment Inflation	4,177	3,217	3,360	10,754	3,584	2,942	3,131	9,657	(593)	(275)	(229)	(1,097)
Communities & Public Health Inflation												
Contract Cost Inflation - Inspire	490	422	700	1,612	658	285	285	1,228	168	(137)	(415)	(384)
Contract Cost Inflation - Country Parks	40	40	40	120	40	40	40	120	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Communities & Public Health Inflation	530	462	740	1,732	698	325	325	1,348	168	(137)	(415)	(384)
Total Inflation	22,332	18,348	18,767	59,447	35,906	18,308	18,797	73,011	13,574	(40)	30	13,564
Total Pressures & Inflation	27,851	24,984	25,354	78,189	61,902	31,942	33,065	126,909	34,051	6,958	7,711	48,720

New Bid

**REPORT OF DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER –
TRANSFORMATION AND CHANGE**

ANNUAL DELIVERY PLANNING – ASSURANCE & NEXT STEPS

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on progress made delivering against the ambitions within the Council's Annual Delivery Plan 2024/25, covering the period July – September 2024 (Q2).
2. To provide an update on the approach to developing the new Annual Delivery Plan for 2025/26.

Information

3. The Nottinghamshire Plan, approved in November 2021, sets out the County Council's 10-year vision for a healthy, prosperous and greener future for everyone. The Plan outlines a focus on:
 - Improving health and wellbeing in all our communities
 - Growing our economy and improving living standards
 - Reducing the County's impact on the environment
 - Helping everyone access the best of Nottinghamshire.
4. Actions required to deliver the Plan's ambitions are outlined in the Council's Annual Delivery Plan, which is refreshed each year. Assurance reporting detailing progress against the Plan is published twice yearly, via the Nottinghamshire Plan website – [Our progress | The Nottinghamshire Plan](#), at the end of Q2 (September), as a mid-year update, and Q4 (March) as a year-end Annual Report.
5. Additional, more detailed reporting on key actions within the Annual Delivery Plan are reported in-year at relevant intervals, to Cabinet, Cabinet Members or Select Committees.

Annual Delivery Plan 2024/25 (Quarter 2)

6. For 2024/25, specific milestones have been allocated against each action, to identify tangible steps that are to be progressed in year, during a given quarter. Of the 53 actions in the current Plan, 66 milestones sit underneath these which relate specifically to quarter 2.
7. A Q2 Assurance Report to support the [current Annual Delivery Plan](#) has been produced (Appendix A), to monitor progress against these milestones in 2024/25.

8. Good progress is being made across the range of actions, with the significant majority of milestones underneath these (82%; 54) on track for completion. Of the milestones off track, this generally relates to delays caused by factors such as capacity and resourcing and the change in national government impacting on funding and policy confirmation. Mitigations are in place where possible to continue to make progress at pace.
9. Noticeable highlights and stories of success from Q2 include;
- i. System partners across health, local authorities and the voluntary sector, and people with lived experience, have worked together to develop the Integrated Mental Health Pathway Strategic Plan 2024- 2027, which was published on 31st July. This sets out the direction of travel for an integrated mental health pathway that delivers local, inclusive, safe, personalised, and therapeutic care that meets the needs of individuals in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.
 - ii. Bereavement and related support webpages have been launched, providing local and national signposting and practical advice for people who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Work is also ongoing to develop a system-led approach to bereavement support, and to explore opportunities for an intelligence led approach to identify and offer early support to people affected by bereavement.
 - iii. New Family Hub networks are being rolled out across Nottinghamshire, with a range of weekly activities organised by council teams and different organisations, which make up the Family Hub network. Activities take place in dedicated Family Hub buildings, community venues and virtual programmes that families can access online, with the full network to be launched by the end of March 2025.
 - iv. The Council's Community Flood Signage Scheme won a Flood and Coast Excellence Award in the Community Action category. The scheme, established in 2011, trains volunteers to close roads susceptible to flooding, helping to protect properties and enhance community resilience. There are now over 485 registered volunteer flood signage wardens across Nottinghamshire. The council provides training and equipment to these volunteers, who play a crucial role during flood events.
 - v. The Council, in partnership with Stagecoach East Midlands, has secured £2.8m from government to invest in electric buses and charging infrastructure in Mansfield. With investment from Stagecoach, this represents a total investment of £13m. These new electric buses will start operating in Mansfield from October 2025.
 - vi. Nottinghamshire County Council has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 39% since 2019. To support the UK's 2050 Net Zero target, the council has created a Net Zero Framework outlining its vision and strategies for reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change. Key priorities include generating local green jobs, enhancing green spaces, improving home energy efficiency, and transforming transportation.
10. Further details can be found in the Q2 Report attached as Appendix A.

In-year assurance

11. It should be noted that Appendix A is not the first opportunity to assure progress in delivering the plan. Many of the actions are reported on as individual items in year as necessary, for example:

- **Action 9.6** – Updates have been provided and approval sought from [Cabinet](#) for next steps in relation to the Building and Office Rationalisation programme.
- **7.3** – Updates have been provided to [Cabinet](#) on the Spherical Tokamak For Energy Production (STEP) fusion programme and the work that the Council and wider stakeholders are undertaking to support the programme to maximise socio-economic benefits.
- **4.4** – Partnership Progress in improving the experiences and outcomes for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities has been reported on throughout the year at [Children and Families Select Committees](#).
- **1.5 & 10.3** – Adult Social Care performance against priorities set out in the Local Account have also been reported on in-year at [Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committees](#).

Developing the Annual Delivery Plan 2025/26

12. For 2025/26, the Annual Delivery Plan will continue to set out the actions we will take in year to achieve our ambitions, with a particular focus on ensuring that actions are at a sufficiently strategic level as to support progress towards meeting the ambitions of the Plan and improving residents' outcomes and experiences. The review of the Plan will be light touch in recognition of the elections in May 2025.

Other Options Considered

13. To not have an Annual Delivery Plan. This would hinder the Council's ability to track and monitor progress against the overarching Nottinghamshire Plan, whilst also limiting visibility for Members and residents alike, as to the priority actions for the year ahead.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. To allow Overview Committee to reflect on the progress made to date against the Annual Delivery Plan 24/25 and to consider in year assurance against the actions, before the production of the Annual Report in 2025.

15. To allow Overview Committee the opportunity to feed into the development of the Annual Delivery Plan 2025/26.

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. 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

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

Data Protection and Information Governance

18. Stories collated for Q2 assurance are those already in the public domain, whether this be through previous reporting at other Committees in year or via the Council's newsroom, and so the necessary permissions have already been sought ahead of publication. Where necessary permissions have also been sought on the inclusion of images and specific story related content.

Implications for Residents

19. The Q2 Report provides an update on progress against the actions outlined in the Annual Delivery Plan 2024/25, which show how we are playing our part in working towards the healthy, prosperous and greener future.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Overview Committee considers and comments on the:
 - a) progress made to date in the delivery of the Annual Delivery Plan 2024/25.
 - b) processes for Annual Delivery Planning for 2025/26.

COUNCILLOR BRUCE LAUGHTON, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Lucy Peel, Service Director Public Service Reform –
0115 977 3139, lucy.peel@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (CM 09/01/2025)

The report falls within the terms of reference of the Overview Committee.

Financial Comments (SES 08/01/2025)

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.

- [The Nottinghamshire Plan, 2021-2031: Our plan for a healthy, prosperous and greener Nottinghamshire](#)
- [Annual Delivery Plan 2024-25](#)
- Appendix A – Annual Delivery Plan 2024/25 Q2 Report

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All.

Nottinghamshire County Council Annual Delivery Plan 2024/25

Quarter 2 Assurance – Published Jan 2025



Healthy

Prosperous

Green



Annual Delivery Plan 2024/25 – Quarter 2 (July-Sept) Assurance

The [2024/25 Annual Delivery Plan](#) outlined the actions we intended to take over the coming year, to deliver the ambitions outlined in [The Nottinghamshire Plan](#), and how we will measure our success. This report provides members and residents with an update on our progress to date in delivering these actions (up to the end of September 2024), alongside a range of success stories from across all departments.

Summary – For 2024/25, specific milestones have been allocated against each action, to identify tangible steps that are to be progressed in year, during a given quarter. Of the 53 actions in the current Plan, 66 milestones sit underneath these which relate specifically to quarter 2. Of these, 54 (82%) are currently on track for completion, whilst 11 (17%) have been highlighted as experiencing some issues. Only 1 (2%) has been highlighted as experiencing significant obstacles to completion.

For those actions which are experiencing issues, this generally relates to delays caused by factors such as capacity and resourcing and the change in national government impacting on funding and policy confirmation. Mitigations are in place where possible to continue making progress at pace, with assurance having been provided to Council officials.

Further assurance will take place before the end of the financial year to allow additional opportunity for Departments to provide updates on progress, with a detailed breakdown of the milestones under each Ambition included below:

Ambition 1 – Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives: The Council committed to delivering 5 actions to achieve this ambition by April 2025. Of the 9 Q2 milestones against these actions, 3 are complete, 4 are on track, whilst 2 are experiencing minor issues.

Ambition 2 – Supporting communities and families: The Council committed to delivering 7 actions by April 2025. Of the 7 Q2 milestones against these, 2 are complete, 3 are on track, whilst 2 are experiencing minor issues.

Ambition 3 – Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe: The Council committed to delivering 5 actions by April 2025. Of the 7 Q2 milestones against these, 2 are complete, 3 are on track, whilst 2 are experiencing minor issues.

Ambition 4 – Building skills that help people get good jobs: The Council committed to delivering 5 actions by April 2025. Of the 7 Q2 milestones against these, 4 are on track, whilst 3 are experiencing minor issues.

Ambition 5 – Strengthening businesses and creating more good-quality jobs: The Council committed to delivering 5 actions by April 2024. Of the 7 Q2 milestones against these, 3 are complete, whilst 4 are on track.

Ambition 6 – Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit: The Council committed to delivering 5 actions by April 2025. Of the 5 Q2 milestones against these, all 4 are on track.

Ambition 7 – Attracting investment in infrastructure, the economy and green growth: The Council committed to delivering 3 actions by April 2025. Of the 3 Q2 milestones against these, 1 is on track, whilst 1 is experiencing significant obstacles.

- The milestone experiencing significant obstacles refers to the A614 corridor improvement (action 7.2) – this faces significant delays due to the new government's review of all capital assets and delays in receiving Department for Transport's sign off on the detailed business case submitted for funding.

Ambition 8 – Improving transport and digital connections: The Council committed to delivering 5 actions by April 2025. Of the 5 Q2 milestones against these, all 5 are on track.

Ambition 9 – Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint: The Council committed to delivering 6 actions by April 2025. Of the 7 Q2 milestones against these, all 7 are on track.

Ambition 10 – A forward looking and resilient Council: The Council committed to delivering 7 actions by April 2025. Of the 9 Q2 milestones against these, 2 are complete, 5 are on track, 2 are experiencing minor issues.

See overleaf for stories of success that have occurred during Quarter 2 (July – September) for the current financial year.

Ambition 1 – Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives

Our ambition is that people in every community enjoy healthier, happier lives and remain independent for longer.

Progress:



More students using local buses to travel to college – 83% of students at West Notts College are now using local bus services to travel to college thanks to a student travel scheme set up by the Council, in partnership with the college and local bus operators. Previously, only 30% used the bus, with the rest travelling in by car. Students now have a smart card that not only gets them to and from college, but also allows them to get around when not at college. 22% are now using it to access work and leisure activities. The success of the scheme was recognised when the partnership won the prestigious [Bus Initiative of the Year award](#), from the Chartered Institute of Highways & Transport awards, earlier this year.

Nottinghamshire wins coveted Sustainable Food Place Bronze Award – In August, the Nottinghamshire Sustainable Food Network won a prestigious [Sustainable Food Places](#)

[Bronze award](#). The award recognises the Nottinghamshire Network’s work to promote healthy, sustainable, local food, and to tackle some of today’s greatest social challenges - including food poverty and diet-related ill health. The Network is a dynamic forum for discussion and action on all key food issues, bringing together a range of partners working to improve the local food system.



Councillor Scott Carlton, Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health said: "The Nottinghamshire Sustainable Food Network is proud to achieve the Sustainable Food Places Bronze Award. It demonstrates the achievements of the partners and communities who work hard to ensure good healthy food is available for everyone".



Better collaboration to support mental health – System partners across health, local authorities and the voluntary sector, and people with lived experience have worked together to develop the [Integrated Mental Health Pathway Strategic Plan 2024- 2027](#), which was published on 31st July. This sets out the direction of travel for an integrated mental health pathway that delivers local, inclusive, safe, personalised, and therapeutic care that meets the needs of individuals in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. As part of this, 3 strategic pillars have been developed to deliver on this vision:

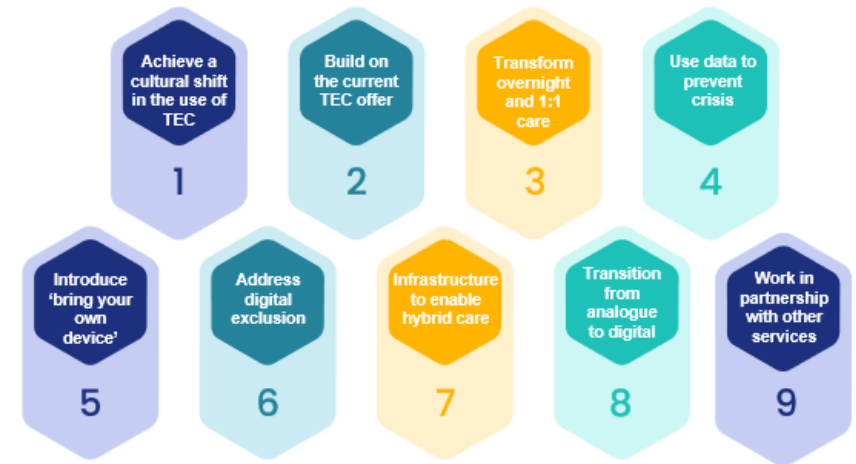
1 – Improving access to care and support in the right place at the right time.

2 – How we deliver high quality care for people.

3 – Timely discharge to the place people call home.

Implementation of the Technology Enabled Care Strategy 2024-27 – Implementation is ongoing, led jointly by the Technology-Enabled Care (TEC) team and Service Improvement, Quality & Practice. [The Strategy has nine key ambitions](#) that collectively promote a ‘TEC First’ approach to support strengths-based care and support people to remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible. As of end of September 2024 progress is above target in several key areas, with training delivered to 550+ internal staff (target of 1,000 by April 2025) and 363 carers assessed as high risk of carer breakdown supported with TEC (target of 442 by April 2025, 20% increase against 2022/23 baseline).

Additionally, a refreshed operating model has been developed for the Intelligent Lilli activity monitoring system pilot, based on feedback from teams involved in the early phases, partially funded by the Accelerating Reform Fund. A new Care Data Central Monitoring team will be launched in autumn 2024, enabling long-term monitoring using Intelligent Lilli to detect gradual changes in individuals’ needs as well as crisis prevention.



Story of Difference:

Rushcliffe Ageing Well’s innovative use of TEC to promote independence – ‘A’ lives alone and has mild dementia. Paid carers support them with activities of daily living as their daughter lives in the south of the country. Continuing to access the community is very important to A, as they are very sociable and enjoy visiting their local pub, where they have built up a circle of friends over many years. Because of this, sometimes A is not at home when their carers arrive to support them with medication, which means carers must make another call later when they have returned.

A’s social worker suggested installing Lilli as a long-term monitoring solution to complement their current care package and avoid a more restrictive option. Their daughter and the care provider were given access to the Lilli Friends and Family app with real-time information about A’s movements within the home. This gave the daughter reassurance and the care provider the ability to check in advance that A would be home for their scheduled call, or re-arrange this for when they returned.

Ambition 2 – Supporting communities and families

Our ambition is to ensure that our services are meeting demand and provide the best possible services for all our communities and families, in the most sustainable way.

Progress:



Family Hub Network Launches – New family hubs networks are being [rolled out across Nottinghamshire](#), with a range of weekly activities organised by council teams and different organisations which make up the family hubs network. Activities will take place in dedicated Family Hub buildings, community venues, and virtual programmes that families can access online. As part of the network, organisations work together to assess and meet the needs of families in Nottinghamshire. This is done through universal, early help and targeted services, making sure families get the right support at the right time. The networks include at least one main physical hub and several ‘spokes’, which are a mixture of physical and virtual access and service delivery points. 7 of the 17 Family Hub Networks have now launched, with the remainder being launched by the end of March 2025.

Councillor Tracey Taylor, Cabinet member for Children and Families, said: “I’m confident that if we all work together, we will give children and families in Nottinghamshire the right support at the right time... Through the networks we are expanding our existing offer, making it easier for families to navigate the wide range of help and support that is already available regardless of age.”

Launch of Bereavement Support pages –

Bereavement and related support webpages have been launched and are accessible from [Bereavement support | Nottinghamshire County Council](#). The webpages provide local and national signposting and practical advice for people who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Work is also ongoing to develop a system-led approach to bereavement support, and to explore opportunities for an intelligence led approach to identify and offer early support to people affected by bereavement.

Businesses across Nottinghamshire urged to make an age-friendly pledge – Nottinghamshire County Council encouraged businesses and organisations to join the [Age-Friendly Pledge campaign](#). This initiative aimed to assure older and disabled shoppers that they will always have a welcoming place to sit and rest when out and about. Over 300 businesses and community organisations have already committed to displaying a ‘We are Age Friendly’ sticker. Participating businesses offer seats, drinks, and, if accessible, use of their toilet facilities. The campaign helps older people stay independent and connected, reducing feelings of loneliness and isolation.



Accessing information to support well informed decisions – To help ensure people can access information to support well informed decisions, work has continued to review and upgrade the [Notts Help Yourself website](#). This aims to ensure content is fully compatible with screen readers and other software used to enable people with sight impairment to access and navigate digital content independently. Additionally, four people with learning disabilities and/or autistic

people have been successfully recruited and hosted within the Customer Service Centre (with support from i-Work), to write and quality check new Easy-Read versions of the Nottinghamshire County Council website content.

Stories of Difference:

Transforming Lives Team (formerly Complex Lives) – B was being supported in the Orion Unit (an inpatient service for adults with learning disabilities and complex mental health difficulties) but it had been difficult to discharge them due to multiple barriers and a lack of provider. Prior to admission, B at times needed four members of staff plus police interventions. Getting a placement that met their needs with appropriate community support was difficult.

Working as part of a Multi-Disciplinary Team, a Social Worker appropriately challenged partners and worked swiftly and persistently; if one door closed, they went straight back to the drawing board to get things moving again. The Social Worker did lots of thorough work with getting things right for B and has built a great relationship with them and their family. As a result, B has now been successfully discharged with appropriate support in the community.



Teenager helped to achieve dreams with help from Short Breaks – A teenager from Nottinghamshire is [achieving his dreams of becoming a DJ](#), with the support of Nottinghamshire County Council's Short Breaks Service. Max Dolan, 18, who has a number of additional needs and disabilities, was supported in a mainstream primary school, receiving an education, health and care plan in year 6 and transferring to a special school in year 8.

From an early age he wanted to become a DJ, inspired by watching Kevin and Perry. Since the age of 13, funding from the County Council's Short Breaks Team helped to fund DJ lessons. He quickly gained certificates and progressed to producing music. He now has several songs signed by a small label available to stream and buy, with more in the pipeline.

Max said: "All of this has happened in my life due to the amazing funding from the Short Breaks Service at Notts County Council. I am so thankful and will appreciate all the funding and help and support. I would have found employment so hard given all my needs and disabilities but DJing is a massive passion so now I have these skills me and my family have hope for my future."

Ambition 3 – Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe

We're working hard with partners like the police, district and borough councils, the NHS and Government agencies to keep all residents - especially children and vulnerable adults - safe and supported in our communities.

Progress:

Month-long focus on suicide prevention, self-harm, and mental health – Nottinghamshire County Council ran a [month-long campaign to raise awareness of suicide prevention, self-harm, and mental health](#), from Suicide Prevention Awareness Day on 10 September, to World Mental Health Day on 10 October. The campaign highlighted the help available for anyone who needs support. In addition, on World Mental Health Day itself, a brand-new website launched to help support residents of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire with their mental health. The aptly named 'NottAlone' [aims to connect local people with free mental health support services](#), as well as offering advice and guidance on a range of mental health topics.

Councillor Scott Carlton, Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health said: "We need to challenge the stigma and negative attitudes surrounding the topics of suicide, self-harm and mental health. We need to promote the ways in which people can protect their mental health and get the support they need".



Council stops potential fraud attempts worth more than £2.1 million – The Council has [successfully prevented over £2.1 million in potential fraud attempts](#) over the past four years. The Council's annual fraud report highlights the detection of more than 200 fraud attempts since 2020/21. In the most recent financial year (2023/24), 44 potential fraud cases totalling £411,016 were identified. The Council has implemented robust measures to safeguard public funds, including counter-fraud training for staff and promoting a zero-tolerance approach to fraud.

Flooding volunteer scheme named as winner of national award – The Council's Community Flood Signage Scheme won a [Flood and Coast Excellence Award](#) in the Community Action category. The scheme, established in 2011, trains volunteers to close roads susceptible to flooding, helping to protect properties and enhance community resilience. There are now over 485 registered volunteer flood signage wardens across Nottinghamshire. The Council provides training and equipment to these volunteers, who play a crucial role during flood events.

Foster for East Midlands – The Council has been working in conjunction with Nottingham City Council, Derbyshire County Council, and Derby City Council as part of the D2N2 project particularly around the recruitment of foster carers within the East Midlands. Under the name Foster for East Midlands, the four local authorities are promoting the benefits and options that residents in the East Midlands can take to offer a safe and happy home to children and young people who need it. One aspect of this project is the Mockingbird programme which nurtures the relationships between children, young people and their foster families supporting them to build a safe and caring community of between six and ten satellite families known as a



constellation. This constellation offers a wider “family” network of support to each other and has helped keep siblings together when entering foster care, as well as avoiding the use of children’s residential homes.



Residents in Woodborough are benefiting from over £220,000 of investment to help protect homes from flooding – The natural flood management scheme upstream of Woodborough village aims to reduce flooding during heavy rainfall by slowing water flow into the village. Led by Nottinghamshire County Council and delivered by Trent Rivers Trust, the project involved creating earth bunds, attenuation ponds, and leaky barriers to control water levels and encourage wildlife habitats. The second phase included reopening a covered watercourse and reshaping the river channel to further slow water flow and enhance environmental benefits. The scheme has received praise for its collaborative approach and positive impact on flood resilience and biodiversity.

Story of Difference:

Enabling people experiencing severe multiple disadvantage (SMD), to have access to suitable housing and effective, integrated support services – C agreed to work with the Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) team to help us understand how people living with SMD were experiencing our system offer. They were alcohol dependent, homeless and experiencing impacts from being neurodiverse and having mental ill health and trauma from past experiences. Working with the MEAM team they successfully accessed detox and rehab and are now in supported housing. They also participated in co-designing MEAM sessions and are now undertaking voluntary work. They felt that through MEAM, people were able to see them as a person, rather than as their behaviour.

Ambition 4 – Building skills that help people get good jobs

Whatever stage people are at in their education, we'll partner with schools, colleges, universities and training providers to ensure that the skills being taught match the needs of local businesses and new investors, while supporting the kinds of work our people want to do.

Progress:

Supporting Nottinghamshire residents to access training courses – The Economic Growth and Regeneration team have been working with a number of providers to host training courses for over 1,500 learners this year. This forms part of the Council's broader attempts to promote the opportunities available to provide the right education and training required for our residents, to secure employment and then have the ability to progress and succeed in their work, as set out in the Council's new [Employment and Skills Framework](#). The Framework focuses on the importance of recognising and enhancing skills for employment, supporting individuals of all ages in entering or progressing in the workforce, and ensuring that businesses have access to the skills and talent needed for growth, innovation, and diversification. [For more information, see here](#).



One stop shop for Nottinghamshire residents to help find further opportunities – The Council has agreed an extension to the [Nottinghamshire Opportunities](#) portal, which is a virtual one-stop-shop to support residents find work opportunities and help employers develop their talent pool. It aims to be the go-to place to explore local career opportunities and provides a platform for people to search for jobs, training courses, and apprenticeship opportunities. So far this year, there has been over 6,500 users and 4,400 people clicking the "Job Apply" button.

Employment and training opportunities at Brooke Farm – Brooke Farm provides [employment and training opportunities](#) in a real work environment for adults who have a learning disability. The training lasts up to three years and prepares trainees to gain long term, paid employment. What is unique about Brooke Farm is the fact that also it provides a much-valued service to the local community. The café is incredibly popular with its selection of drinks, cakes and snacks, or a light lunch. The people who take the orders in the café and prepare the food are trainees in food service, preparation, and food hygiene.

On a recent visit, Councillor Jonathan Wheeler, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, said: "I recently visited Brooke Farm, our employment training hub in Linby, to see the brilliant work that takes place... Those who attend the training hub at Brooke Farm are supported in learning real life skills in food service, horticulture, retail and administration, preparing them to succeed in the world of work and helping them to live fully independent lives".



Ambition 5 – Strengthening businesses and creating more good-quality jobs

We are helping businesses grow and be more profitable, but we're shaping them to be more sustainable too.

Progress:

Supporting Nottinghamshire businesses to grow and succeed – In Mansfield, the Council has helped F22 Studios, a photographic business, to obtain grant funding and expand their showroom, increasing their sales revenue and employing more staff. In Broxtowe, we held networking events and surgeries which helped businesses to identify funding. Rigsby's Seasonal Foods, Beeston based producers of unique artisan foods and drinks, subsequently won a national award, increased their product range and invested in new software to help manage their productivity. Tri-Dosha Ltd, based in Mapperley who provide training and products for holistic wellness therapists and skincare professionals, were supported to obtain a growth grant which allowed them to employ more staff and engage in new markets.

Supporting Nottinghamshire Visit Economy businesses – The Economic Growth and Regeneration team have been working with Visit Nottinghamshire to [support the visitor economy and our tourism businesses](#). Following national recognition of securing the Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) earlier this year, there have been various initiatives and campaigns targeted to supporting tourism businesses, including training sessions, visitor economy summit and marketing in the tourist informant centres.



At the time of LVEP accreditation, Councillor Keith Girling, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management said: "This is a positive move for Nottinghamshire's visitor economy. It strengthens our position to showcase the whole of the county and what it has to offer, especially with plans for Devolution. Visit Nottinghamshire, as the lead destination management organisation for the area, is best positioned to promote the county at a local, regional, and international level and attract visitors."

Ambition 6 – Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit

Nottinghamshire has so many strengths, which we want to build on to make an even more attractive place to live, work and visit. We're working towards making more of these assets for residents and visitors, and we are prioritising the places in Nottinghamshire that would benefit the most from regeneration.

Progress:

Multi-million-pound expansion project set to create 560 extra school places in Rushcliffe – Nottinghamshire County Council announced a £27 million investment to expand Rushcliffe Spencer Academy, creating 560 additional school places. This expansion includes 450 secondary places and 110 sixth form places. The project will feature a new teaching block with dining and sports facilities, as well as improvements to existing buildings and external areas. This initiative aims to address the growing demand for school places in the area and is part of a broader investment in education across Nottinghamshire.

School buildings most in need of improvement set to benefit from £8.6m council investment – The Council announced an [£8.6 million investment to improve school buildings most in need of upgrades](#). This initiative, part of the council's annual school building improvement program, is managed by Arc Partnership. The improvements include roof replacements, drainage enhancements, and energy-efficient lighting and boiler upgrades. A dozen schools will benefit, with specific projects tailored to each school's needs. This investment aims to ensure that students have safe and efficient learning environments.



New sculpture commemorating historic voyage unveiled in Nottinghamshire – A new sculpture called Scrooby Rock was unveiled in Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, to [commemorate the historic 1620 voyage of the Mayflower](#). This sculpture is a replica of Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts, where the Mayflower Pilgrims first landed. Funded by a £37,400 grant from Nottinghamshire County Council, the project also received local donations and sponsorship. The sculpture features the names of all 102 Mayflower passengers and honours both the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people. The unveiling was part of the Scrooby annual show and aims to attract visitors and celebrate the community's history.

Collaborative efforts drive multi-million-pound investments in local towns – The Council are working closely with the District and Boroughs to complete the final projects funded from the town deals (totalling £146m), £6.3m of Future High Street, £270k of High Street Heritage Action Zones. Officers are working with colleagues to ensure that all the projects secured funding through Levelling Up Funding round 1 (totalling £20m), £57.6m secured through the second round of Levelling Up Funding, £40m over the two Levelling Up Partnerships in Bassetlaw and Mansfield are delivered. More recently, there has been a further £100m allocated to Carlton, Kirby, Mansfield, Newark and Worksop as part of the long-term plan for towns and Officers have been working closely with the respective district/borough councils to prepare their investment plans.

Thousands flock to Nottinghamshire Day spectacular at Sherwood Forest – More than 2,000 people attended the [Nottinghamshire Day celebrations](#) at Sherwood Forest. This free event, part of the annual Robin Hood Festival, featured a variety of activities celebrating Nottinghamshire's history and culture.

Highlights included the 'Hunt the Outlaw' game, archery, axe-throwing, craft sessions, and poetry workshops. The event was organized by Nottinghamshire County Council in partnership with RSPB, Notts Outdoors, and Inspire.



Nottinghamshire's Armed Forces' champions honoured at Boots and Beret 2024 Awards – More than 200 Armed Forces champions and dignitaries attended [Nottinghamshire County Council's second Boots and Beret Awards](#) at Goosedale, near Papplewick, in August. The showpiece event was launched last year to celebrate the tireless dedication, commitment and service within the Armed Forces community across Nottinghamshire.

Councillor Keith Girling, the County Council's Armed Forces Champion, said: "This year's Boots and Beret Awards was once again a fantastic and moving occasion and I would like to thank everyone who attended for celebrating the tremendous work which happens throughout the county in support of our Armed Forces community... As a military veteran myself and the County Council's Armed Forces Champion, it was wonderful to see the spotlight shine on so many deserving individuals, organisations and businesses."



Ambition 7 – Attracting investment in infrastructure, the economy and green growth

We are working towards Nottinghamshire growing greener and improving jobs, opportunities, and quality of life for everyone, supporting a bright and prosperous future for Nottinghamshire.

Progress:



Zero emission bus investment in Mansfield – The County Council, in partnership with Stagecoach East Midlands, [secured £2.8m from government to invest in electric buses and charging infrastructure in Mansfield](#). With investment from Stagecoach, this represents a total investment of £13m. As a result, ten single-deckers and 13 double-deckers will replace older diesel buses on services 1, 6, 7 and 16, and are expected to be in service by 2026. The electric buses will offer improved comfort, quality, and accessibility for passengers, as well as reducing noise and air pollution. As part of the project, the Council has also initiated a partnership between Stagecoach and West Notts College, which will provide opportunities for students and staff to enhance their skills and careers in automotive engineering.

Councillor Neil Clarke MBE, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, said: “We are delighted to partner with Stagecoach East Midlands and West Notts College on this project, which will not only benefit the environment and the health of our residents, but also create new opportunities for learning and skills development in the automotive sector. This is a fantastic achievement for Nottinghamshire and a major step towards our goal of becoming a net zero carbon county by 2050”.

Advancing clean energy: STEP Fusion Programme and new leadership drive economic impact – Further work is being progressed with the Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP) Fusion programme project, to help deliver long term investment in clean energy, including appointing a new Programme Manager (joint role with Bassetlaw District Council). This role is helping to drive the vision and the wider economic impact for our residents and businesses.

Ambition 8 – Improving transport and digital connections

We continue to develop our Local Transport Plan which will set out how we'll improve our transport networks, prioritising those areas that would benefit most from better connections and making use of the latest technology and data to keep Nottinghamshire moving and thriving.

Progress:

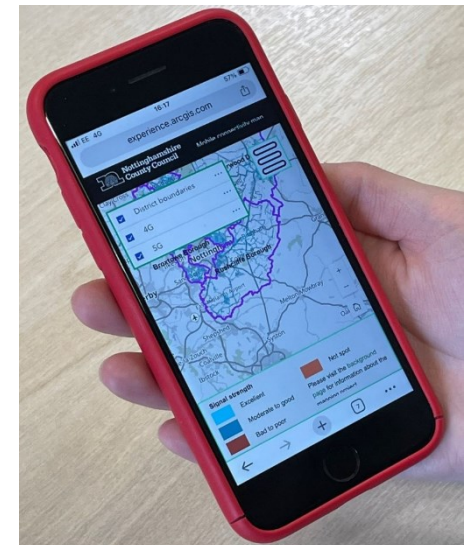
Shortlisted for Intelligent Transport Systems award for work on improving bus service reliability through enforcement – The Council's submission to the annual ITS (Intelligent Transport System) awards was shortlisted for its description of the impact ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) cameras have had on resurrecting a bus service in Mansfield that had been abandoned because the buses could no longer access the stops on Leeming Street because of late night takeaway drivers. Stagecoach returned their service which is essential to provide affordable access to the town centre in the evening. Prior to the awards, the Council's Enforcement Manager was invited to talk to delegates at the Parking and Transport Conference in Manchester and explain how the cameras worked and the direct impact they had on reducing contraventions.

Investment in local bus services – By March 2025 the County Council will have used its Bus Service Improvement Plan funding to invest an additional £3.8m in Nottinghamshire's local bus network, enhancing, extending or introducing 32 bus services. Passenger numbers have increased by 11% and bus passenger satisfaction is now at 90%.

£4.8m investment in highway maintenance and winter readiness – Nottinghamshire County Council allocated [£4.8 million to enhance highway maintenance and improve winter readiness](#). This investment follows the severe winter conditions of 2023, which caused significant damage to the county's road network. The funds will be used for permanent in-lay repairs, large-scale structural patching, gully emptying, and ditch clearance. The goal is to repair an additional 40,000m² of carriageway and ensure the roads are safer and more reliable for users.

Councillor Neil Clarke MBE, Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment, said, "This investment is crucial to help us to recover from the devastating damage caused by the previous winter and to prepare for the upcoming season... As well as finding this money from within the council's budget, we will also continue to press for significant extra funding from the government, and from the East Midlands Mayor who together could make a huge and positive difference to roads in Nottinghamshire."

Innovative project to put Nottinghamshire on the map for better mobile phone coverage – The Council launched an [innovative project called Digital Pathfinders to map mobile phone signal strength](#) at street level across the county. This project involved fitting bin lorries with special monitoring devices to collect over seven million sets of mobile signal data while performing their regular waste collection duties. The data, which includes 4G and 5G signals from major providers, will be analysed to create public maps showing the strongest mobile phone signals in different areas. This initiative aims to improve connectivity, especially in rural areas, and support local businesses and communities.



Ambition 9 – Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint

We pledged to combat climate change and drive greener growth at a local level, to support the UK's 2050 Net Zero national target. We are working on further reducing emissions across our transport fleet, properties, and highways, whilst simultaneously supporting and improving biodiversity, reducing waste and increasing recycling thus improving air quality and promoting greener travel.

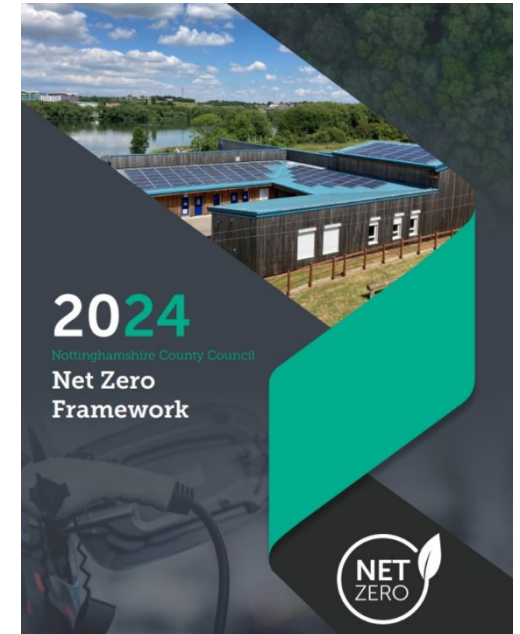
Progress:

A positive move toward Net Zero – Nottinghamshire County Council has [reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 39% since 2019](#). To support the UK's 2050 Net Zero target, the council has created a [Net Zero Framework](#) outlining its vision and strategies for reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change. Key priorities include generating local green jobs, enhancing green spaces, improving home energy efficiency, and transforming transportation. The council emphasises collaboration with local authorities and stakeholders to achieve these goals.

Councillor Neil Clarke MBE, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment welcomed the creation of the Net Zero Framework: "This new document brings together our vision and ambitions for achieving a net zero future for our county, so they are in one place... The council's move toward a net zero target, highlights the importance of us all trying to make a difference to the global impact on a changing climate. The recent floods demonstrated an environmental shift and had a significant impact on local people and businesses."

Council advances A614/A6097 junction improvements with £24m funding bid and land acquisition – The Council are progressing work to improve six junctions along the A614/A6097 road network. The full business case has been completed and the bid for £24m funding is with colleagues in the government to review. The compulsory purchase order has been completed, which now mean that the land required to build the improved junctions is now in the County's ownership.

Electric vehicle cable charging trial powers ahead in Retford – Nottinghamshire County Council's Electric Vehicle Charging Cable (EVCC) Pilot scheme has been [rolled out in Retford](#) for the first time as part of the countywide trial to assess the suitability of EV charging cable channels that will enable residents without driveways to charge their electric vehicles outside their homes. The scheme is part of a government-funded trial to better understand the range of solutions that are available for charging electric vehicles on the street and is expected to run until early next year.



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Ambition 10 – A forward looking and resilient Council

We continue to work together to build a resilient council which develops and changes, to meet the needs of Nottinghamshire's residents. To achieve our ambitions, we will deliver the actions below.

Progress:



Council buildings' programme set to move to next stage to bring long-term savings – Progress has continued on the Council's new low carbon, all-electric office complex near Hucknall, which will be the new home of the council's civic, democratic and leadership functions. Despite recent storms and heavy rainfall, the building remains on track to be completed by spring 2025 and is being built to standards which will rank the building within the top 10% of new UK (non-domestic) buildings, in terms of environmental sustainability.

These plans are part of a wider buildings' programme which aims to save taxpayers' money by creating more carbon-neutral council buildings, generating income by leasing older buildings with higher

running-costs, and co-locating with other public organisations. In addition, the Council's refreshed [Hybrid Working Strategy](#) helps ensure we remain adaptable and are available at the most appropriate place and time to support our communities, ensuring we deliver our services to the highest of standards, irrespective of where we're based.

Making Nottinghamshire County Council a great place to work – We've been working hard to ensure we are a great employer who is able to recruit and retain a highly skilled, competent, and compassionate workforce to deliver our vital services. As part of this, we've supported over 300 apprenticeships and are ensuring there is additional support for those furthest from employment, including extra support for those with special educational needs.

Improving our Customer Service Centre (CSC) support to residents – The CSC has implemented 'screen popping', which is an integration between our telephone system and the Customer Management system (CMS). This means that when a customer calls in, the CMS can recognise their numbers as potential previous callers and 'pop' the customer record to the advisor, along with the call. In essence this means the advisor does not have to profile the customer to find any previous conversations or enquiries, saving both advisors and customers' time. After analysing the first month's data, we are finding a reduced call duration of 42 seconds. Whilst this doesn't sound much, when the team are taking over 370,000 calls it will start to make a huge impact on the transaction calls and experience of customers, as we continue to improve and develop it.

Smarter Working Hybrid Working Strategy



An efficient Catering and Facilities Management Service meeting the needs of Nottinghamshire residents - The County Council's Catering and Facilities Management Service delivers significant social value across Nottinghamshire, providing a range of services - such as school catering, facilities management advisory and support services, and ground maintenance and landscaping services. Recognising both the financial pressures facing the Service and the importance of protecting the quality of school meals, the Council has undertaken work to form a joint venture partnership. This will enable the Service to continue to deliver the quality and performance our customers have come to expect, whilst working in a more financially sustainable and efficient way, increasing flexibility and minimising disruption to staff and customers.

Next Steps:

We will publish an Annual Report in 2025 as part of our year-end review, outlining our progress and achievements during 2024/25 and the impact of these on Nottinghamshire's communities. To see the range of achievements we achieved during the previous 2023/24, see [last year's Annual Report](#).

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES

CURRENT APPROACH TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Councillors on the background and activities being undertaken within Nottinghamshire County Council relating to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how this can support the delivery of services moving forward.

Information

2. There is considerable content being produced in the media about Generative AI and this is producing a great deal of excitement and investment in the technologies that underpin the functionality associated with Generative AI. However, while the technology will change the world of office-based work consideration needs to be given to where the technology makes the biggest difference and when to deploy it as the technology is not free to use. In addition, there are risks that also need to be considered when deploying Generative AI and the other variants of AI, that can reduce the bureaucracy and drudgery associated with administrative tasks.
3. The excitement was created by ChatGPT which is a series of Large Language Models (LLMs) backed up by Foundation Models that undertake machine learning based of large amounts of data. The trigger was being able to use these models to translate, interpret and then Generate new artifacts with similar characteristics which gives the impression of unique thought even though that is not the case. ChatGPT offered immediate benefits to people to write documents and summarise large documents.
4. While the excitement has driven usage there are some risks associated with the technologies and some have been well publicised such as AI being used to provide legal advice which turned out to be wrong. AI hallucinates, it is not lying or, misleading rather it is using the data and algorithms it has to produce output. The data can be wrong, change over time due to greater ingestion of data or, the algorithms can alter. So Generative AI needs to be deployed cautiously with human oversight and critical thinking to ensure the output is accurate.
5. AI is more than Generative AI, it can also support the automation of complex processes and decision tree activity that is undertaken on the phone or, online using Chatbots. They use some of the same technologies but eliminate the Generative element as the process are

modelled to give a definitive response or, route through to a person to resolve where there is any element of discretion or, further clarity required. In addition, where there is the potential for a significant emotional response then that needs to be considered fully before automating such processes.

6. Inclusion is another area that needs to be considered when deploying such technologies however, the technologies can support greater inclusion by automating and/or making what can be challenging processes for individuals easier.
7. Nottinghamshire was part of the Microsoft Early Adopters Pilot in October 2023, utilising M365 CoPilot (used with the Office Suite of products) together with a small number of Local Authorities. This enabled NCC to deploy up to 300 licenses following a significant programme of training and “teach in” sessions to help people to become familiar with what the product could do. Of the 300 deployed over the year 2023/24, 70 were repatriated due to low or, no usage and redeployed through the year of the trial.
8. It should also be noted that the “free” version of CoPilot has already been deployed to encourage use of the software in a managed way. It would be naive to assume that people that want to use these technologies are not already doing so. Giving a broader population access to them in a controlled and managed fashion enables people to become familiar with the technology in an unthreatening way.
9. It has proven challenging to identify savings from these deployments and that has meant introducing a methodology for charging that puts the onus on the end user to fund the license on a business case basis which needs to be approved by the budget holder. Once this was introduced the number of licenses actually funded dropped to around 100.
10. There have also been some challenges, in what were considered to be early wins, such as redactions and Chatbots proved more technically challenging than the early demonstrations suggested and required different software tools (there are numerous versions of CoPilot). While this landscape is changing fast the initial “hype cycle” has reinforced how new the technology is and how quickly the landscape alters. Chatbot functionality has improved considerably from 15 months ago where a software partner would have been required to produce any functionality in this area with the associated maintenance and future development costs. Today this is much more straight-forward and while it requires additional software it is being trialled internally to establish the best way to introduce this into NCC.
11. A process has been established that enables colleagues to try the product for a period of 4-6 months before they are charged, the funding for this is covered through a technology investment fund. This enables colleagues to determine what areas of their business might benefit by utilising controlled experimentation to be undertaken.
12. There are other specific business areas that have been highlighted as potential time saving mechanisms using AI. The first being the transcription of formal meetings in Adults, Social Care and Public Health, and the second being Education Health and Care Plan production. Currently there are offerings from AI start-up companies in these areas however, the actual costs are not entirely transparent so the approach being taken is to define NCCs requirements and then establish what is the best software tooling for that purpose. This also means that any compromises in relation to the overall technical architecture can be established and identified for future mitigation. It is likely that some tactical solutions will be deployed but this will only

be done with an understanding of how NCC moves to a more sustainable solution(s) over time.

13. The principal areas that benefited from the M365 CoPilot deployment in the early adopters programme were, summarisation of meetings or, documents. Document creation has also proven useful, but it is not straight-forward to quantify the time saving from this. This has been made more opaque by the plethora of products and upgrades that have been released over the last year. This means being slightly behind the leading edge gives the opportunity to take advantage of the products with the greatest chance of success as there is no need for a distress purchase of products that may be promising the earth and then potentially failing to deliver. Examples of the usage feedback is in Appendix A which supports this analysis.
14. Other considerations that are also being taken account of are the Line of Business applications such as Business Management System (BMS) and Mosaic (the Social Care application). Both applications need either re-platforming or, upgrading. The applications are ageing and in the situation of BMS the version NCC is running was released in 2004, this means the newer version will have AI technologies (in the areas of automated workflow and sophisticated Optical Character Recognition (OCR)), that will be built into the base product and everything else that has improved in the last 20+ years. In the case of Mosaic the Access Group who own and maintain the product are keen to ensure that it is their AI offerings that are utilised in this area to increase their revenue stream but tis also minimises NCCs exposure to multiple technical solutions and the associated costs, integration, and upgrade expense associated with multiple applications. This means that the AI functionality will come with the LoB applications and NCC is checking with the suppliers to ensure we do not duplicate that functionality with all the associated issues that brings.
15. There are other areas that will benefit from the deployment of AI technology and this needs to be undertaken in a joined-up manner to ensure NCC gains the benefits of the software across all of the functions. The interaction with the citizen is an area where a coordinated approach will help to ensure that there is a level of consistency in NCCs interactions and the ability to move people from telephony channels to online where this is appropriate. Increasingly Millennials and Gen Z expect an online interaction to be faster and easier than face to face and increasing proportion will not use the phone or face to face contact. Putting a better online offer in place will ensure that these groups continue to be included in the NCC communication channels.
16. All of the above needs to sit within the overall strategic technical infrastructure plus ensure that it supports the data strategy. Data is critical to the operation of these software and as such getting a common definition and ownership (Taxonomy) across NCC and its partners will support the deployment of these toolsets and ultimately make them more reliable. The data does need to be cleansed to achieve this as duplicates, omissions or, errors make the models themselves more prone to error or, hallucinations.
17. Lastly all of the future purchases will need to be undertaken with an understanding of how these might support any changes in local government as outlined in the recent white paper. This does not infer any delay or, acceleration of software (AI tooling) purchase, rather the opportunity to ensure that NCC is best positioned to support those changes moving forward in a way that best supports Nottinghamshire citizens. So any systems dealing with the public should have the capability to deal with high volume, standardised enquiries online and via

chatbots. Having such functionality in place will enable decisions to be made on a policy basis rather than the mechanics of systems.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. 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

19. There are no direct financial implications relating to the recommendations of this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Overview Committee consider and comment on the current approach being taken by the Council on Artificial Intelligence (AI).

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON

CABINET MEMBER – FINANCE AND RESOURCES

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Paul Martin, Head of Technology and Digital, 0115 9775722, Paul.Martin@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (LPW 14/01/2025)

20. The recommendation falls within the remit of Overview Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (PAA29 09/01/2025)

21. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 20 of the report. Whilst there are no specific financial implications arising from the report, any proposed work on Artificial Intelligence (AI) that is not already reflected in the Council's budget will be brought forward for consideration and approval. This will include details of the estimated revenue and capital costs along with the proposed funding.

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

Appendix A

Feedback on usage.

Two detailed examples: -

Microsoft Copilot 365 pilot feedback from a Team Manager ASCH.

Pilot Program Experience: They shared their experience with the pilot program, mentioning that they have been using it for a couple of months now, as they joined the pilot late.

Supervision Sessions: They discussed using CoPilot for supervisions, noting that it helps them actively listen to their staff and improves the flow of the meetings. They went on to mention that they had presented a, Principal Social Worker with two copies of their supervision notes, one of which had been created using Copilot 365, the others were handwritten notes. The Principal Social Worker confirmed that if they had been quality checking the notes created by Copilot, they would score them as excellent.

Learning how to work more effectively with the copilot does take time, particularly in how to ask questions (prompts) to get more detailed responses.

Feedback from staff has been positive about supervision sessions, as they felt the sessions had a better flow and allowed for more active listening.

They emphasised that the copilot is an assistant and will always require some level of human intervention to ensure completeness and accuracy of the captured information as it is not always accurate and does not always capture all details.

They used Copilot in safeguarding and multidisciplinary meetings, noting that it captures a lot of details and produces better notes than some note takers.

The efficiency of the copilot in producing and distributing notes and action items quickly, especially in urgent multidisciplinary meetings was identified. Attendees have commented on the speed of response and congratulated them on it.

It was also identified that Copilot allows them to focus on the meeting rather than taking notes, which enhances engagement and participation.

The usefulness of Copilot in urgent multidisciplinary meetings, where it helps produce and distribute notes and action items quickly was highlighted.

CoPilot was utilised in a scenario where numerous professionals, including councils, health, police, and CGL, were involved in an urgent meeting, and how copilot helped produce and distribute notes promptly.

Copilot was used with newly qualified social workers, finding it helpful for active listening and ensuring all necessary information is covered.

Copilot was and can be used to soften the tone of an email, finding the result impressive and more suitable.

It was highlighted that colleagues who have seen Copilot in action are interested in using it themselves.

In Face-to-Face supervision they noted Copilot cannot currently be used as it struggles to identify who is speaking.

They emphasised the positive impact of Copilot on their well-being, as it reduces the need to stay late to type up notes and helps manage their workload more effectively.

Feedback from Social Work Support Officers (SWSOs) – Microsoft CoPilot 365

As part of the Business Support Role review project, Microsoft Copilot 365 licences were allocated to 9 x Social Work Support Officers to trial as part of ICT Services Early Adopter Programme (EAP). The pilot was relatively short with the licences being allocated at the end of August and the EAP coming to an end early November.

A call was held on the 29th of October to gather feedback from the pilot. This included the following statements: -

- Time was saved in helping to create a process guide for SharePoint.
- The time taken to check the transcripts outweighed the benefits. Copilot's spelling and grammar often needed correcting, with transcripts needing to be triple checked.
- Copilot was unable to accurately identify individuals on a call.
- Many of the meetings were very sensitive in nature and the outputs from Copilot didn't feel authentic.

The training materials provided via the EAP were useful and the SWSOs found the product intuitive and easy to use. They particularly liked the introduction session delivered by Phoenix Software. It was helpful that this session was recorded and could be viewed when the time allowed.

The team have decided not to proceed with the licences currently.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

OUTCOMES OF SCRUTINY REVIEW: BLUE BADGES

Purpose of the Report

1. To share with the Overview Committee the findings from the task and finish review around Blue Badges and to seek the endorsement of the committee for the recommendations of the review to be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

Information

Background

2. As part of their Work Programming process during the summer of 2024, members of Overview Committee expressed concern on how accessible and user-friendly applying for a Blue Badge was for residents since the application process had moved online with paper applications no longer being accepted.
3. After being agreed by Overview Committee for inclusion on its Work Programme, work was carried out to “scope” the review. This work was carried out by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Overview Committee, in consultation with Marie Rowney - Group Manager Customers, Complaints and Information. This work identified the key objectives for review as well as setting out the strategic context in which the issues involved would be considered.
4. As a result of the scoping work that was carried out, the key objectives that would guide the review were identified as being:
 - To examine the application and issuing processes for Blue Badges in Nottinghamshire.
 - To consider any improvements that could be made to the Blue Badge application and issuing processes for Nottinghamshire residents.

Link to Council Priorities

5. The work of the Council’s scrutiny function should always be focussed on supporting delivery of its strategic priorities, which will in turn support the delivery of the best possible services to the residents of Nottinghamshire. The work in scoping the review identified that a review of Blue Badges supported a wide range of strategic priorities, as well as the strategies and policies that underpinned them.

The Nottinghamshire Plan 2021 - 2031

6. The Nottinghamshire Plan 2021 - 2031 is an ambitious plan for the County Council that sets out the Council's strategic vision for the future of Nottinghamshire and the local authority. The activity in the Nottinghamshire Plan is built around achieving a bold 10-year vision for a 'healthy, prosperous and greener future for everyone'. This vision is supported by 10 ambitions which act as a framework for all County Council activity. The scoping activity highlighted how the work of the review would support the delivery of the following ambitions that are set out in the Nottinghamshire Plan:
- Helping our people live healthier and more independent lives.
 - Improving transport and digital connections.
 - A forward looking and resilient Council.

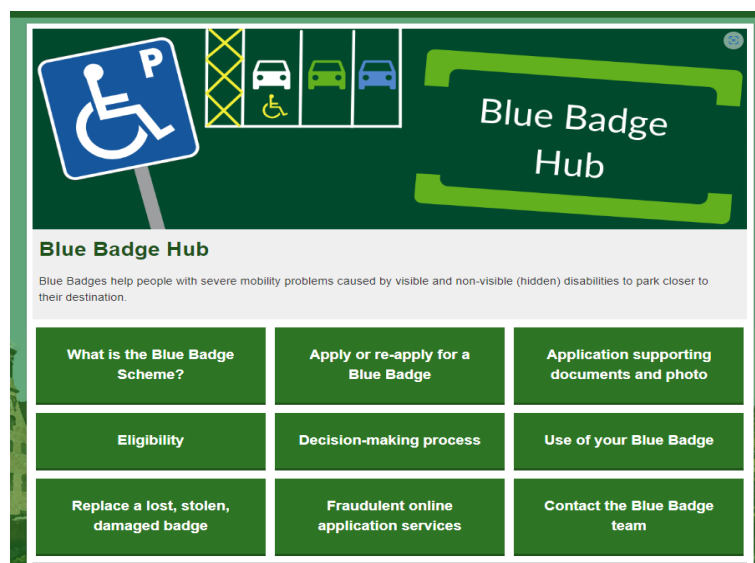
The Blue Badge Scheme

7. The aim of the national Blue Badge Scheme is to help people with severe mobility problems caused by visible and non-visible (hidden) disabilities to park closer to their destination.
8. The Department for Transport is responsible for the legislation that sets out the framework for the Blue Badge scheme, the scheme is then administered by local authorities. The Department for Transport provides guidance for local authorities on eligibility criteria and on how to manage the scheme. The Department for Transport has updated their guidance on a number of occasions, and in August 2019 introduced criteria for assessing and awarding Blue Badges due to not all disabilities being visible, with some being "hidden" and not being immediately obvious.
9. In Nottinghamshire, Blue Badge processing and administration is managed through the Commissioned Services Team at the Council's Customer Service Centre.

Blue Badge application process

10. To apply for a Blue Badge, residents need to complete an online application form on the GOV.UK website. In Nottinghamshire all applications need to be completed online, with paper applications no longer being accepted. If a resident is unable to complete an application online, assistance can be provided to complete an application over the telephone with a trained advisor in the Council's Customer Service Centre. The application process asks a series of questions about a resident's circumstances in order to check their initial eligibility. If, based on the answers provided, a resident is identified as being eligible for a Blue Badge, residents are then required to answer some further questions that will provide the information needed to fully assess their needs and to confirm their eligibility.
11. Blue Badges are issued for a maximum of three years, and when a badge expires each badge holder needs to reapply for a new badge. The scheme regulations, set by the Department of Transport do not include a "renewal" process, and as such all applications for Blue Badges are processed and assessed in the same way. This process ensures that badges are always issued in accordance with the current regulations governing the scheme, with residents having their eligibility assessed on the information supplied in each new application. The Council does not retain historical application data for review, and it is the applicant's responsibility to provide as much detail and evidence as possible every time that they apply for a Blue Badge.
12. The Blue Badge Hub on the Council's website provides a central location for all information on the scheme and the application process. The "big button" format of the Hub has been designed

to make all of the information that a resident needs to support them through the process of applying for a Blue Badge as easy to navigate and as user friendly as possible.



Blue Badge eligibility

13. There are two types of Blue Badge eligibility, which are:

- Type 1 - "Eligible without further assessment".
- Type 2 - "Eligible subject to further assessment".

Irrespective of whether a resident is eligible under Type 1 or Type 2, everyone seeking a Blue Badge needs to apply using the same application process.

14. **Type 1:** A resident will automatically qualify for a Blue Badge if they:

- receive the Higher Rate of the Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance
- receive eight points or more under the 'Moving Around' descriptor of the mobility component of the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or score 10 points under Activity 11, descriptor E in the 'planning and following a journey' part of the mobility component, which states 'you cannot undertake any journeys because it would cause overwhelming psychological distress'.
- are registered blind (severely sight impaired)
- receive a War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement
- have been awarded a lump sum benefit at tariff 1-8 of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and have been certified as having a permanent and substantial disability which causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking.

15. **Type 2:** A resident may be eligible for a badge if they:

- have an enduring and substantial disability that causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking, which may include very considerable psychological distress; in this case they may be asked to have an independent mobility assessment.
- drive a vehicle regularly, have a severe disability in both arms and have considerable difficulty in operating all, or some, types of parking meter.

- are aged under three years and have to be accompanied everywhere by bulky medical equipment.
- are at risk of serious harm, or pose a risk of serious harm to any other person, when walking
- are an organisation caring for disabled people meeting the eligibility criteria. (The application of this criteria is at the Council's discretion).

Application and assessment

16. After applying online, a resident will then need to provide supporting documentation to enable their application to be assessed as well as a photograph for the badge. These documents can be submitted online through the Council's Blue Badge Hub or by post. Whilst the Council aims to process applications as quickly as possible, residents are advised to allow up to six weeks for the processing of their application.

17. Once received, the information submitted both in the application form and in supporting evidence is thoroughly assessed against the Department for Transport's eligibility criteria to judge whether a resident is entitled to receive a Blue Badge. As part of the assessment process, it can be necessary for the Council to speak with a resident about their disability and eligibility for a Blue Badge to gain the fullest understanding of their condition and how it impacts on their mobility. The assessment team carry out hundreds of assessments each day and have undergone significant training to assess each application fairly and consistently against the scheme's eligibility criteria. The team are also supported by healthcare professionals who assist with more challenging or complex applications. If a resident is assessed to be eligible then a Blue Badge will be posted out once all correct documents, a photograph and the £10 badge fee have been received.

18. If after being assessed a resident is found to be not eligible, they will be notified in writing advising how their application did not meet the required criteria for a Blue Badge. Residents are able to ask for this decision to be reviewed if they feel that the decision is wrong. However, unless a resident can provide additional medical evidence in relation to their conditions and how they impact on their mobility that has not been previously provided, or if their condition has significantly deteriorated since they applied, then their request to change a decision is unlikely to be successful.

Review activity.

19. The members of the review group were:

- Councillor Boyd Elliott (Chairman)
- Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle (Vice-Chairman)
- Councillor Sinead Anderson
- Councillor Richard Butler
- Councillor Steve Carr
- Councillor Jim Creamer
- Councillor Mike Introna
- Councillor Mrs Sue Saddington

20. The first meeting of the review group took place on Monday 11 November. In addition to receiving information on the Blue Badge scheme, members received a presentation from Marie Rowney - Group Manager Customers, Complaints and Information, Louise Blant-Harwood - Service

Manager Design Build and Support, and Michelle Thorpe – Commissioned Services Team Leader that provided detailed information on the following issues.

The Blue Badge issuing process and administrative arrangements.

21. The Commissioned Services Team, based within the Council's Customer Service Centre provides end-to-end delivery of the Blue Badge Scheme in line with Department for Transport guidance. In delivering the scheme the key focus is the balancing of the provision of a fair and consistent approach in the processing of applications for Blue Badges whilst also protecting the integrity of the scheme. The Commissioned Service Team are supported in their role by the Customer Services Team who manage enquiries from residents on Blue Badges and support them with the application process. The Customer Service Centre is also running a successful pilot scheme where Customer Service Advisors are making pro-active calls to some categories of badge holders whose badge is about to expire to support them with the reapplication process.
22. The Commissioned Services Team are the authors of the Council's policy on Blue Badges. The team are also responsible for the reviewing and updating the Blue Badge section of the Council's website, managing related complaints, and dealing with appeals when applications have been unsuccessful. The team are also responsible for managing and developing how the Blue Badge assessment process operates in Nottinghamshire and the related IT systems. Staff also attend regular training sessions to learn about updates to the guidance and take part in a range of networking opportunities with other local authorities to share best practice.
23. Over time, the processes for the administration of the scheme have been refined and developed to deliver service improvements, create efficiencies and to ensure that the highest level of customer service is always delivered to Nottinghamshire residents. These changes to processes have enabled the Council to deal with the significant increase in the number of applications for Blue Badges that has been seen in recent years, partly driven by the eligibility changes for Blue Badges that were introduced in 2019.
24. Department for Transport regulations that govern the scheme give local authorities the discretion to charge a fee on the issue of a badge, this fee cannot exceed £10 and has been set at this amount since 1 January 2012. In Nottinghamshire the fee is £10. Despite the increasing numbers of applications, improvements to the procedures around how applications are processed have enabled the average cost of processing each application to be substantially reduced. However, with the fee for issuing a badge having been set at the same amount for over 13 years, it is not possible for the Council to cover all of the costs that are incurred in the delivery of the scheme. As such the Council is always looking at how to deliver further improvements and efficiencies in how the scheme is administered.

The Digital First approach

25. The Council is always looking to make its services more efficient to best meet residents' needs as well as making them sustainable to deliver. To support the delivery of this ambition, the Council's Annual Delivery Plan for 2024/25 states how the Council will "Continuously improve how people are able to access information, advice, guidance, support, and services. This will include improvements to Notts Help Yourself and the Council's website, trialling new technology to improve the customer experience whilst continuing to ensure that people are able to speak to someone over the phone or in person, where this best meets their needs."
26. In December 2023 the Council stopped accepting paper applications for Blue Badges. Documents in support of an application can still be submitted by post if a resident cannot submit

them electronically through the Blue Badge Hub. The change to an online only application process was not sudden and was introduced in phases.

27. In 2022, and with the Council's commitment to a "digital first" approach in mind alongside a significant increase in applications being made for Blue Badges, it became evident that to keep up with service demand and to maintain the best level of customer service, efficiencies in how applications were processed needed to be made. In an endeavour to reduce manual processes and to start the Blue Badge digital journey, applicants who had provided an email address on their paper application form were now managed and communicated with digitally. By the end of 2023/24 digital correspondence use had risen significantly with 96.5% of all communication now being made solely through digital channels.
28. The success seen with the move to a digital by default communication approach initiated consideration of how the entire application process could be made digital and ending the use of paper-based applications. At this time, the continued use of paper applications for Blue Badges, when an online application process was available, had been creating significant challenges for the Commissioned Services Team in their ability to process Blue Badge applications as efficiently as possible. Many paper applications received were using out-of-date forms that had been handed out in locations that were outside of the Council's control. As such, many of these paper applications did not include all the required information to enable them to be processed in a timely way, as changes to the application form and scheme criteria were not reflected in these out-of-date forms. There were also cases of residents submitting photocopies of previous applications, rather than completing a new application form when reapplying for a Blue Badge. This meant that a clear and honest assessment of a resident's current needs, disabilities, and medical conditions was unable to be made against current eligibility criteria. The impact of these issues resulted in increased levels of manual work having to be carried out by the Commissioned Services Team to process applications, resulting in delays for residents in receiving their Blue Badge.
29. As part of the considerations around the introduction of an all-online application process, research and benchmarking activity was carried out to examine the approach being taken by other local authorities. This activity established that a Digital First drive was prevalent at most other local authorities and that, many were at a far more advanced and developed stage than was the case in Nottinghamshire, with many having had paperless processes in place for several years. This benchmarking activity also showed that the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the budget constraints that were being faced by local authorities were major factors in the move towards a digital approach on how services were delivered and to make them more efficient.
30. The change to communicating digitally with residents who had applied on paper, but who had supplied an email address had shown that for many residents the use of a paper form had been a choice rather than a need. However, there were concerns in advance of the change that moving to an all-online service could make applying for a Blue Badge difficult for some residents. In order to ensure that no resident would be unable to apply for a Blue Badge an external provider was sourced to support residents who could not independently apply online. The provider was ultimately unable to provide the level of service within the required timescales and the arrangement was ended. However, after a successful trial, residents who cannot make an application on-line either independently or with assistance from family or friends will soon be able to complete their application over the phone with a trained Customer Service Centre advisor within five working days of requesting this service. Work has also been completed with community groups across Nottinghamshire to provide guidance and training to enable them to support residents with the online application process if required.

Service delivery and continuous improvement.

31. Department for Transport guidelines state that applications should be processed with 12-weeks of receipt, however in Nottinghamshire the target is to deal with all applications within six-weeks or less. This target is currently being met. The ongoing benchmarking activity and communication that takes place with other local authorities has shown that other local authorities are not working to a similar target of processing applications within 6-weeks but instead aim for the Department for Transport guideline of 12 weeks. Despite the Department for Transport guidance, some local authorities are currently taking up to 24 weeks to process applications.
32. For 2024/25 it is estimated that the Council will process 24,125 Blue Badge applications. In Nottinghamshire, of the applications made:
- 85% are successful and are granted a Blue Badge.
 - 15% are refused as it was not shown on the application how they met the eligibility criteria.
 - 10% of residents that are refused appeal against the decision.
 - 77% of appeals received are successful in being granted a Blue Badge. This is due to additional information being submitted with an appeal.
 - 23% (0.06% of all applications) of residents who appeal are not successful in being granted a Blue Badge.
33. The service is always looking at ways to further improve and develop the Blue Badge application process. Between November 2023 and March 2024, 73% of residents reapplying for a badge had the option to complete their application over the phone. During 2023-24, 70% of new applications were processed as automatically eligible. Currently only residents aged under 75 and who are applying for a first or subsequent Blue Badge under the Type 2 criteria (Eligible subject to further assessment), are unable to apply for a badge over the phone.
34. The service's focus on continuous development and improvement, as well as its focus on providing a high-quality and customer focused experience has resulted in some excellent feedback being received from residents and councillors on the level of service that is provided to residents who are applying for a Blue Badge. There have also been no formal Blue Badge complaints via the Complaints team this year.

Appeals

35. If an application for a Blue Badge is refused, a letter is sent to the resident stating that a Blue Badge cannot be issued based on the information that has been provided. This letter provides information on why badge has not been issued and how the application did not meet the eligibility criteria of the scheme.
36. A resident can appeal the decision by submitting further information and evidence in support of their application by post or through the Blue Badge Hub. Once an appeal request has been received it is assessed by a Specialist Commissioned Services Officer or a Senior Practitioner. This review will take place within 24 hours of an appeal being received. However, in cases where an appeal is complex, these are required to be reviewed by a wider group or by a Team Leader. In these cases, the average processing time for an appeal is currently 7.35 days. Once a decision

has been made, the resident will be informed of the outcome in writing. If an appeal is unsuccessful, a resident must wait for six-months before submitting a new application unless their health or mobility deteriorates significantly during this time.

Liaison with the Department for Transport, Benchmarking, Best Practice activity

37. As part of the Council's commitment to continuous service development, the implementation of best practice and in providing a high-quality and responsive service for Nottinghamshire residents, officers are active members of the Department for Transport's Local Authority Peer Group which is a panel of 19 local authorities who meet regularly to discuss best practice. Officers also participate in the Department for Transport's Local Authority Assessors Group where officers meet to discuss the assessment process in order to ensure consistency in how applications are processed.
38. Officers also actively participate in and use a wide range of information sharing forums including regularly meeting with representatives of nine other Local Authorities. The Council also has a close working relationship with Nottingham City Council around enforcement of the correct use of Blue Badges.

Blue Badge fraud, misuse, and enforcement

39. Whilst there is an amount of Blue Badge fraud nationally, the number of fraudulent applications made in Nottinghamshire is very small with robust processes being in place for these rare occurrences to be managed and dealt with accordingly. However, nationally, instances of fraudulent applications and levels of Blue Badge misuse can be an issue. This can be a particular issue for local authorities that cover large cities where parking is generally more difficult to find and where it can be expensive to pay for.
40. Every successful applicant for a Blue Badge is issued with the Department for Transport's, 'The Blue Badge scheme: rights and responsibilities in England' leaflet with their badge. This leaflet provides the badge holder with the information needed to ensure their badge is used appropriately. As part of the application process the applicant must agree not to allow someone else to use their badge.
41. The vast majority of Blue Badge holders use their badges responsibly, however there are individuals who misuse the scheme. The misuse of the Blue Badge scheme undermines the benefits of the scheme, impacts upon local traffic management, and can create hostility amongst other badge holders who use their badges correctly. Misuse can also result in a genuinely disabled person being unable to access designated parking spaces. In Nottinghamshire, there is no evidence of any significant misuse, with instances of misuse often relating to people in badge holders support networks using a badge when the badge holder is not in the vehicle.
42. Identifying Blue Badge misuse requires local enforcement efforts and community awareness, and the Blue Badge Hub provides an online form for residents to report any concerns about misuse. The enforcement of the Blue Badge Scheme is carried out by the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers, who through their normal patrols identify instances of illegal on-street parking misusing Blue Badges and carry out specific targeted enforcement days and locations throughout the year. During 2022-23, 24 Blue Badges (including expired badges) were seized during Civil Enforcement Officer day-to-day patrols and 11 Penalty Charge Notices were issued for badge misuse.

43. After receiving the information members of the review group took the opportunity to ask questions of officers on the information that had been provided and to discuss the issues that had been raised.

Review recommendations.

44. The Commissioned Services Team continually review how it delivers its services to ensure that they are offering the most cost effective and efficient service for residents and for the Council. As part of the review members learnt about a range of changes to processes for the Blue Badge application service that are currently being trialled and considered to identify the benefits and any drawbacks of these changes. As part of their considerations, members had regard to the impact of the changes on the service received by residents, any costs involved for the Council, and the Council's responsibility to maintain the integrity of the Blue Badge scheme.

45. Members of the review group welcomed that after a successful trial period, residents who cannot independently make an application on-line will be able to complete their application over the phone with a trained Customer Service Centre advisor. This service will be available for any resident that is making a first application (all ages) or a reapplication (under the age of 75) under the further assessment route (not automatically eligible) who does not have online access themselves, are unable to complete the application, do not have any family or friends to help them, or who are unable to access library internet services.

46. Members also noted their support for changes that will enable some types of badge holders, including those in receipt of an automatically qualifying benefit and those who are severely sight impaired, to reapply for their Blue Badge using a short telephone application process. Members agreed that the introduction of this service would make the process of reapplying for a Blue Badge easier and quicker for many residents. Between November 2023 and March 2024 73% of re-applications had the option to complete a phone application.

47. In September 2024, a pilot process was launched to enable applications from residents submitted under Type 2 eligibility criteria (eligible subject to further assessment) who are aged at least 75 and who have had a Blue Badge before, to be processed automatically without going through the full assessment process. Previously, only re-applications from residents submitted under Type 2 eligibility criteria and who were aged at least 80 were processed in this way. This pilot activity has enabled reapplications from this group of residents to be processed more quickly and at a reduced cost to the Council as the full assessment process did not need to be completed for these applications. This change has provided a saving to the Council in officer time and in administration costs. As noted, the Department for Transport regulations give local authorities the discretion to charge a maximum fee of £10 on the issue of a Blue Badge, an amount that has not increased in over 13 years. In this context and alongside increasing demand for Blue Badges, members agreed that this approach to Type 2 reapplications for those aged 75 or over had the potential to enable the costs involved in the administration of the Blue Badge scheme to be reduced and as such was very welcome.

48. Members of the review group noted that whilst there was a risk that adopting this procedure permanently could result in Blue Badges being issued to some residents who did not meet the eligibility criteria, for example if their condition had improved since their previous application, that the risk of this happening was low. Members agreed that for this group of residents, both with mobility difficulties as well as with hidden disabilities, it was unlikely that their entitlement for a Blue Badge under the Type 2 eligibility criteria would have changed since their last application. Members agreed that the benefits that the reduction from age 80 to age 75 for residents reapplying for a Blue Badge under the Type 2 eligibility criteria, reducing the time and cost to the

Council of processing these applications, enabling a simpler application process for residents (also meaning that they could complete their reapplication over the telephone) and the delivery of an even higher level of customer service, outweighed the minute risk of a Blue Badge being issued to a resident who was not entitled to one.

Recommendation One

That the pilot activity that has enabled residents who are aged at least 75 years and who already have a Blue Badge to be automatically entitled to a new Blue Badge when they reapply should be maintained.

49. Another pilot scheme that has been recently introduced has been the proactive calling by Customer Service Advisors to some current Blue Badge holders in vulnerable groups who have a badge that is approaching its expiry date to support them to reapply for a Blue Badge in good time. Feedback from residents who have received one of these calls has been very positive, with residents stating how useful they have found this service with many not being aware that their Blue Badge was about to expire and that they would need to reapply for a new one.
50. Members of the review group agreed that this trial of this proactive calling was an excellent service for these residents and should if resources allow be expanded to include more groups of badge holders. Members welcomed that to give all residents who were being called confidence and assurance that the calls were genuine, calls made from the Customer Service Centre now displayed caller information to show that it was the Council that was calling.

Recommendation Two

That the pilot activity of contacting vulnerable Blue Badge holders in advance of their current Blue Badge expiring should be maintained,

and,

that if current or future resourcing capacity allows, then the benefits of extending this service should be explored.

51. As part of the review process, members considered the correspondence and forms that are owned and written by Council as part of the application process used to communicate with residents as well as with professionals who are being contacted to request further information as part of an assessment. As noted, the content and wording of the Blue Badge application form is set by the Department for Transport and cannot be amended by the Council.
52. Members welcomed the work that is currently being carried by the Commissioned Services Team to review the content and number of letter templates and forms used in the Blue Badge administration process to further improve their content and accessibility. Members agreed that this work supported the ongoing activity to streamline processes, create efficiencies and to deliver the best level of customer service to Nottinghamshire residents.

Recommendation Three

That to make the processes involved in applying for a Blue Badge as clear and accessible as possible, a review of the correspondence and forms used throughout the application process be carried out.

53. Blue Badges are issued for a maximum of three years, and when a badge expires each badge holder needs to apply for a new Blue Badge. As already detailed, there is now renewal process for Blue Badges with all applications processed and assessed in the same way. The Council does not retain historical application data, and it is the applicant's responsibility to provide as much detail and evidence as possible every time they apply for a Blue Badge.
54. Members agreed that whilst it was important to have a robust application process in place that ensured all relevant information on a resident's health condition or hidden disability was able to be captured, the application form could be time consuming to complete and could also be confusing for some residents. Whilst members agreed that it would be beneficial for many residents if the application questions and process could be simplified, acknowledged that as the application form and questions were set nationally by the Department for Transport, simplifying the online application process, or changing the questions asked was not something that the Council could do independently. Members agreed however that it would be helpful if the Department for Transport introduced a simplified application process that could be used when reapplying for a new Blue Badge.
55. Officers from the Commissioned Services Team are active members of a range of focus groups and forums with the Department for Transport as well as with other local authorities where, as experts in delivering the scheme, they have the opportunity to discuss its delivery and to make suggestions for areas of its operation that can be further improved and developed. Members agreed that whilst the Council's active participation in these groups provided a good opportunity for officers to highlight areas of the scheme where changes or improvements could be made, it would be beneficial if Nottinghamshire MPs could also support this activity by raising the benefits of a simplified online application process for Blue Badge applications directly with the Department for Transport and also with relevant Government ministers.

Recommendation Four

That the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and the Chairman of Overview Committee write to all Nottinghamshire MPs to request that they highlight the benefits of a simplified online application process for Blue Badges with the Department for Transport and relevant Government ministers

and

that through the communication channels available to the Council with the Department for Transport, activity should continue to highlight and support the benefits of further improvements and simplification of the online application process for Blue Badges.

56. As detailed, there is no "renewal" process for Blue Badges, everyone seeking a Blue Badge needs to apply or reapply using the same application form and process. For those residents reapplying under Type 2 eligibility, all applicants need to detail how their health condition or hidden disability impacts their mobility on their application, as well as providing supporting evidence to enable an assessment to be completed on their entitlement for a Blue Badge.
57. Members of the review group agreed that for residents who were reapplying for a Blue Badge under Type 1 eligibility criteria the process of completing an online application form and providing evidence of their entitlement each time they needed to reapply was a relatively easy and straightforward process to complete. Members agreed however that for residents who were reapplying for a Blue Badge under Type 2 eligibility and who had a condition that was either degenerative or would not improve, having to provide the same information and supporting

documentary evidence (which could be difficult and time consuming to do) each time that they reapplied for a Blue Badge could be a frustrating process when their condition was unchanged or had worsened.

58. For all reapplications under Type 2 submitted by residents aged under 80 (and in the pilot scheme under 75), a full assessment is carried out to assess a resident's eligibility. Members agreed that for reapplications received from residents whose conditions were either degenerative or had stayed the same since their last application, carrying out a full assessment was not the best use of the Commissioned Services Team's resources and also had the potential to lengthen the time taken to process an application.
59. Due to GDPR and other regulations around the retention of data, the Council can only retain the most recent application form received from a resident. This along the lack of a "renewal" function the Council does not currently have a way of recording whether a resident's condition is degenerative or will not improve. Members also noted it was not possible for an additional question to be added to the application form to request evidence of a degenerative or permanent condition. Members however agreed that to make the reapplication process easier for these residents and reduce the number of assessments carried out by the Commissioned Services Team, finding a way of recording whether a condition was degenerative or would not improve to make the reapplication process easier would be a welcome service development.

Recommendation Five

That the possibility of recording information on whether a resident's condition is degenerative or will not improve, in order to enable future applications to be processed more swiftly, be explored.

60. The Blue Badge Hub on the Council's website provides a central location for all information about the Blue Badge scheme and the application process. Members of the review group agreed that the "big button" format of the Hub, designed to make all of the information that a resident needs to support them through the process of applying for a Blue Badge, was clear and easy to navigate for residents. The format and presentation of the Hub also compares very favourably to the Blue Badge application web pages used by other local authorities. The web pages of other local authorities commonly use a more traditional text based, less visual approach making them more difficult for residents to navigate and to access the information that they are looking for. These sites do not provide the customer focussed approach and ease of access to information that Nottinghamshire residents benefit from when using the Blue Badge Hub.
61. In Nottinghamshire there is a target to deal with all applications for Blue Badges within six-weeks or less. This service delivery target is currently being met and, in many cases, exceeded. Whilst this information on the length of time that the Council takes to process applications is detailed on the Blue Badge Hub, members of the review group agreed that in order to provide the best possible level of service to residents this information should be clearly displayed on the Hub front page (it is currently displayed in the decision making process section accessed from the front page). Members agreed that displaying this information prominently on the Hub's front page could encourage residents to submit reapplications earlier and as such reduce the risk of a resident applying too late in order to receive a new Blue Badge before their old one expires.
62. Members of the review group also agreed that it could be beneficial for residents if the processing time for Blue Badge applications displayed on the Blue Badge Hub was regularly updated to show the current average processing time for applications. Members however agreed that further work would be needed to gain a more detailed understanding of how this could work in practice,

noting that the assessment requirements and processing time for applications submitted under Type 1 and Type 2 eligibility criteria were different.

Recommendation Six

That information on the current processing times for Blue Badge applications should be displayed on the front page of the Blue Badge Hub.

63. Once an application for a Blue Badge has been made by a resident, and where an email address has been provided, all communication to the resident on the application is made through digital channels. If a resident needs to contact the Commissioned Services Team during the application process, the Blue Badge Hub includes a simple web form that they can use to submit their enquiry. If a resident prefers, they can make their enquiry by phone through the Customer Service Centre, however residents are encouraged to use the web form wherever possible as this enables their enquiry to be dealt with in the most timely way.
64. Members of the review group agreed that whilst the communication processes that were in place for the administration of Blue Badges enabled a good level of customer service to be provided to residents, there was the potential in this part of the process to deliver further service enhancements. Members noted that when applying for other types of services such as passports, automated emails and text messages were often sent to applicants at key points of the application process to keep them informed of their application's status. Members agreed that the introduction of this type of service for Blue Badges would have the benefit of enabling residents to be kept up to date with the progress of their application and had the potential to reduce the number of digital and telephone contacts from residents enquiring about the progress of their application. Members agreed that a service of automated emails or texts messages could be particularly useful for residents who were not automatically entitled to a Blue Badge where applications took longer to be processed due to the additional stages of assessment that needed to be completed.
65. The introduction of automated emails and text messages would however result in a cost for the Council in implementation. In advance of any introduction members agreed that a detailed analysis of the costs involved and the potential benefits for residents that this approach could bring to further streamline and improvement the Blue Badge application process would need to be carried out.

Recommendation Seven

That a full assessment of the benefits and costs of sending automatic email messages to residents at key points of the application process be carried out.

66. In delivering services, the Council works to ensure that all of its services are as accessible as possible and are delivered in a way so as not to exclude any group of residents from accessing them because of their individual accessibility needs. To support this ambition, and with the move to a fully online application process, additional services have been put in place to ensure that no resident is unable to apply for a Blue Badge due to them being unable to complete an online application either on their own or with the assistance of family or friends. In order to support equal access to the application process, any resident who cannot independently make an on-line application is now able to complete their application over the telephone with a trained Customer Service Centre advisor.

67. It is recognised however that for some residents completing an application over the telephone may also be difficult due to their particular accessibility needs. To further support these residents work has already been completed with a range of community and voluntary groups across Nottinghamshire to provide them with the guidance and training that will enable them to fully support residents to complete the online application process for a Blue Badge. Members of the review group welcomed the activity that had been carried out so far with the community and voluntary sector. Members agreed that this additional service would be particularly beneficial for residents who did not speak English as a first language or whose disabilities made applying both online, as well by telephone, difficult.

Recommendation Eight

That further work and engagement activity should be carried out with community groups across Nottinghamshire to enable them to provide support and guidance to residents who are not able to complete an online or phone application independently.

68. Members of the review group were in agreement that the Blue Badge scheme in Nottinghamshire is delivered efficiently and effectively, and in a way that provides a responsive, accessible and customer focussed service for Nottinghamshire residents. Members also noted their approval that despite increasing numbers of applications being seen over recent years, improvements to procedures had enabled the average cost and the time taken for the processing of each application to be reduced. Throughout the review process members were impressed by the knowledge and passion shown by the officers who deliver the Blue Badge scheme and their commitment to further develop how the scheme is managed in order to provide the best possible service to Nottinghamshire residents.

69. Whilst there are some specific areas of service delivery where members believe that there are opportunities for procedures to be developed further to deliver enhanced levels of efficiency and customer service, they agreed that the Council's delivery of the Blue Badge scheme should be seen as an example of best practice in local authorities. As such, members agreed that there was potential for the Council to work more closely with other local authorities in the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) area to share best practice in the delivery of the Blue Badge scheme and to consider ways of working more together more closely.

70. Working with other local authorities in the EMCCA area could either be in the form of the alignment of procedures to provide consistent application, assessment, and decision-making processes, or could be for Nottinghamshire to fully administer the Blue Badge scheme on behalf of other local authorities which could deliver further efficiencies in service delivery. Members agreed that both approaches had the potential to deliver benefits for the Council and the other EMCCA local authorities, as well as for residents using the service.

Recommendation Nine

That the possibilities of Nottinghamshire working with other Councils in the East Midlands Combined County Authority area in the delivery of the Blue Badge scheme be fully explored.

71. As already detailed, the number of fraudulent applications made for Blue Badges in Nottinghamshire is very low. Members were satisfied that robust processes are in place during the application and assessment processes to enable any fraudulent applications to be identified and dealt with appropriately.

72. In Nottinghamshire the vast majority of Blue Badge holders use their badge responsibly and in accordance with the rules of the scheme which are detailed in the Department for Transport's, 'The Blue Badge scheme: rights and responsibilities in England' leaflet that is issued with each Blue Badge. However, and as already detailed, there is a level of misuse with instances of Blue Badges being used incorrectly.

73. Members agreed that discouraging and identifying Blue Badge misuse required not only Civil Enforcement activity and increased community awareness, but for also for all badge holders to fully understand how to use their badge correctly. As such, any further activity carried out to reduce misuse should be focused on information and education as well as on enforcement. Members agreed however that targeted and focused enforcement activity was an important part of the activity that is carried out to reduce the misuse of Blue Badges. Members noted that whilst the level of Blue Badge misuse in Nottinghamshire appears not to be widespread, any instances of misuse risked undermining the integrity of the scheme, and as such agreed that further activity should be carried out to discourage the incorrect use of Blue Badges.

74. Currently the Council has a programme of Blue Badge enforcement days as well as participating in the national Blue Badge enforcement day coordinated by the London Borough of Lambeth. Members agreed that any further activity carried out to discourage the misuse of Blue Badges should however be proportionate to the problem, as due to the relatively good supply of accessible parking in Nottinghamshire, high levels of focussed and proactive Civil Enforcement activity may not be the most efficient use of resources in tackling the issue. Other local authorities have run campaigns to encourage the correct use of Blue Badges, but which have also reaffirmed that enforcement activity is carried out where appropriate, members agreed that a similar approach to encouraging the correct use of badges could also be used in Nottinghamshire.

Recommendation Ten

That to further support the activities being carried out to ensure the correct use of Blue Badges, that consideration should be given to:

- a) how further positive communication activity can be delivered to promote the correct use of Blue Badges.***
- b) how a high profile and widely publicised period of enforcement activity could be carried out.***

75. Summary of recommendations

	Recommendation
1.	That the pilot activity that has enabled residents who are aged at least 75 years and who already have a Blue Badge to be automatically entitled to a new Blue Badge when they reapply should be maintained.
2.	That the pilot activity of contacting vulnerable Blue Badge holders in advance of their current Blue Badge expiring should be maintained, and, that if current or future resourcing capacity allows, then the benefits of extending this service should be explored.

3.	That to make the processes involved in applying for a Blue Badge as clear and accessible as possible, that a review of the correspondence and forms used throughout the application process be carried out.
4.	That the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and the Chairman of Overview Committee write to all Nottinghamshire MPs to request that they highlight the benefits of a simplified online application process for Blue Badges with the Department for Transport and relevant Government ministers and that through the communication channels available to the Council with the Department for Transport, activity should also continue to highlight and support the benefits of further improvements and simplification of the online application process for Blue Badges.
5.	That the possibility of recording information on whether a resident's condition is degenerative or will not improve in order to enable future applications to be processed more swiftly, be explored.
6.	That information on the current processing times for Blue Badge applications should be displayed on the front page of the Blue Badge Hub.
7.	That a full assessment of the benefits and costs of sending automatic email messages to residents at key points of the application process be carried out.
8.	That further work and engagement activity should be carried out with community groups across Nottinghamshire to enable them to provide support and guidance to residents who are not able to complete an online or phone application independently.
9.	That the possibilities of Nottinghamshire working with other Councils in the East Midlands Combined County Authority area in the delivery of the Blue Badge scheme be fully explored.
10.	That to further support the activities being carried out to ensure the correct use of Blue Badges, that consideration should be given to: a) how further positive communication activity can be delivered to promote the correct use of Blue Badges. b) how a high profile and widely publicised period of enforcement activity could be carried out.

Acknowledgments

76. The Chairman and the members of the review group would like to express their thanks for the invaluable support provided during review process by Marie Rowney - Group Manager Customers, Complaints and Information, Louise Blant-Harwood - Service Manager - Design Build and Support, and Michelle Thorpe – Commissioned Services Team Leader.

Other Options Considered

77. None. The Overview Committee had previously agreed to undertake this review. Therefore, as required by the Constitution, the recommendations of the review, if approved are required to be submitted to Cabinet for their consideration.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

78. To comply with the requirements of the Constitution that the findings of a scrutiny review are submitted to the Cabinet for their consideration.

Statutory and Policy Implications

79. 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

80. There are no direct financial implications relating to the recommendations of this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the recommendations from the scrutiny review around Blue Badges, as detailed in the report, be endorsed, and referred to Cabinet for consideration.

Councillor Boyd Elliott
Chairman, Overview Committee

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Elliott, Senior Scrutiny Officer,
Tel: 0115 9772564, e-mail: martin.elliott@nottsc.gov.uk**

Constitutional Comments (EKH 14/01/2025)

81. It is appropriate for this report to be considered by the Overview Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SES 07/01/2025)

82. 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.

[Who can get a Blue Badge?](#)

[The Blue Badge scheme: rights and responsibilities in England](#)

[Running a Blue Badge parking scheme](#)

[Blue Badge scheme local authority guidance \(England\)](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMMES

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Committee's work programme.
2. To note the work programmes of the three select committees.

Information

3. The attached Overview Committee work programme will assist the management of the committee's agenda, the scheduling of the committee's business and forward planning.
4. Overview Committee maintains an oversight of ongoing and planned work of the three select committees. The attached work programmes of the three select committees assist the management of the committees' agendas, the scheduling of the committees' business and forward planning.
5. The work programmes have been developed using suggestions submitted by committee members, the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and senior officers and has been approved by the Overview Committee. The work programme will be reviewed at each pre-agenda meeting and committee meeting where any member of the committee will be able to suggest items for possible inclusion.
6. The Forward Plan is available online for members to consider –

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/ForwardPlans/tabid/68/FolderID/20/Current-Forward-Plan.aspx>

Other Options Considered

7. None

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. To assist the committee in preparing its work programme and to maintain an Overview of the work of the three select committees.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. 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

10. None

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That the Overview Committee work programme be noted.
- 2) That the work programmes of the three select committees be noted.
- 3) That committee members make any further suggestions for consideration by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for inclusion on the work programme, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and senior officers, and subject to the required approval by the Chairman of Overview Committee.

Councillor Boyd Elliott Chairman of Overview Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Elliott, Senior Scrutiny Officer, martin.elliott@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (HD)

11. The Committee has the authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (NS)

12. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
5 September 2024	Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24		To consider the Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24.	Annual item	All
	Progress report on the recommendations made from the review of Council office buildings.	Cabinet Member - Economic Development and Asset Management	To receive a progress report from the Cabinet Member for Economic Management and Asset Management on the recommendations made from the scrutiny review of Council office buildings.	Work Programming Session	A forward looking and resilient Council Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint
	Scrutiny Work Programmes		To approve the Work Programmes for Overview and the three select committees.	Annual item	All

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
21 November 2024	Budget Update	Cabinet Member – Finance and Resources	To provide an update to Overview Committee on the budget development process for 2025/26.	Annual item	All
	Budget Monitoring	Cabinet Member – Finance and Resources	To receive the latest monitoring report on the 2024/25 Budget.	Work Programming Session	All
	Nottinghamshire Library Strategy Refresh	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To consider the refreshed Nottinghamshire Library Strategy.	Department	Building skills that help people to get good local jobs. Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit
	Inspire— Culture, Learning and Libraries (Midlands) Contract	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To consider the proposed extension of the contract with Inspire for the provision the delivery of cultural and learning services across Nottinghamshire.	Department/Work Programming session	Building skills that help people to get good local jobs. Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
9 December 2024	East Midlands County Combined Authority (EMCCA)	All	To examine the Council's developing role with the East Midlands County Combined Authority.	Work Programming Session	All

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
23 January 2025	Budget 2025/26	Cabinet Member – Finance and Resources	To consider and make recommendations to Cabinet on the final draft budget for 2025/26.	Annual item	All
	Nottinghamshire Plan - Annual Delivery Planning – Assurance and Next Steps	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member - Transformation	To receive a report on the development of the Annual Delivery Plan for 2025/26.	Work Programming Session	All
	Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member - Transformation	To consider the activities being carried out by the Council to utilise the potential of AI to support the delivery of services.	Work Programming Session	A forward looking and resilient Council.
	Outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Blue Badge applications and processing		To consider the outcomes of the scrutiny review of Blue Badge applications and processing	Committee meeting	Supporting communities and families Helping our people live healthier and more independent lives

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
6 March 2025	Update on the Council's Climate Change Activities and Climate Emergency response.	Cabinet Member - Transport and Environment	Resolved at the March 2024 meeting: "That a further progress report on the Council's Climate Change Activities and Climate Emergency response be received at the March 2025 meeting of the Overview Committee."	Committee meeting	Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint A forward looking and resilient Council
	Budget Monitoring	Cabinet Member – Finance and Resources	To receive the latest monitoring report on the 2024/25 Budget.	Work Programming Session	A forward looking and resilient Council
	Demographic changes and impact on service planning	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transformation	To examine how current and anticipated changes in Nottinghamshire's population are being used to inform service delivery.	Work Programming Session	Attracting investment in infrastructure, the economy, and green growth Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint A forward looking and resilient Council
	Nottinghamshire Plan – Waste Prevention and reuse.	Cabinet Member - Transport and Environment	In accordance to the motion agreed by Council in September 2024 to "Consider, initially through Overview Committee, the case for Annual Delivery Plan (ADP) targets relating to 'waste prevention and re-use' in order to ensure the Council is Applying the Waste Hierarchy."	Council Motion (September 2024)	Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
19 June 2025	Budget Monitoring	Cabinet Member – Finance and Resources	To receive the latest monitoring report on the 2025/26 Budget.	Work Programming Session	A forward looking and resilient Council
	Council approach to prevention activity	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health/Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care.	To consider the Council’s activity around prevention and how this is supporting residents and also addressing health inequalities.	Work Programming Session	Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives Supporting communities and families

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Items pending scheduling or removal.

Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
Replacement of BMS/Mosaic systems	Cabinet Member – Finance and Resources	To consider the issues around the procurement of replacement systems.	Work Programming Session	A forward looking and resilient Council
Environmental/health and wellbeing impact of hybrid working.	Cabinet Member - Finance and Resources Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To gain an understanding of the environmental/health and wellbeing impact of the Council’s hybrid working strategy.	Place SC Work Programming Session/Place SC Committee meeting	Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint A forward looking and resilient council
Support for the Community and Voluntary Sector	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To examine how the Council supports and enables the work of the Community and Voluntary Sector	Place SC Work Programming Session	Supporting communities and families

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Reviews

Project Start Date	Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of Review	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
May 2024	Strengthening Overview and Scrutiny	Cabinet Member – Business Management	To implement activity around the recommendations from the CfGS review of the scrutiny function.	Governance and Ethics Committee	A forward looking and resilient council
November 2024	Blue Badge applications and processing	Cabinet Member – Finance and Resources	To review the processes around blue badge applications and processing. To link in with the procurement of new processing system.	Committee meeting	Supporting communities and families Helping our people live healthier and more independent lives
TBC	Recruitment and retention of Council staff	Cabinet Member – Finance and Resources	To examine how the Council's Human Resource policies impact on the recruitment and retention of staff and to examine how activity in this area can be optimised to support the delivery of the Councils priorities and Council services by the recruitment and retention of high-quality staff. Also to look at longer term of making the Council an employer of choice for young people starting their careers.	Work Programming Session	A forward looking and resilient council

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Items to be scheduled for 2025/26

Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
Net Zero Framework	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	Resolved at the March 2024 meeting: “That a progress report on the delivery and impact of the Net Zero Framework be received at a future meeting of the Overview Committee at a date to be agreed by the Chairman of the Committee.”.	Committee meeting	Attracting investment in infrastructure, the economy, and green growth Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint A forward looking and resilient Council
Employment and skills Framework	Cabinet Member – Economic Development and Asset Management	To provide a progress report once the Framework has been in operation for one year.	Committee meeting	Building skills that help people to get good local jobs.

Items for information briefings for committee members

Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transformation	Briefing for members to introduce them to the principles of AI and how it could be used by the Council to support the delivery of services.	Work Programming session	A forward looking and resilient Council.
Budget Consultation	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transformation	Briefing for members on the work that has been carried out around the development and promotion of the 2024 Budget Survey.	Committee meeting	A forward looking and resilient Council

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – ADULT SOCIAL CARE & PUBLIC HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
9 September 2024	Healthy Families Programme	Cabinet Member - Communities and Public Health	To receive a progress report on the progress around the recommissioning of the service.	Work Programming session	Supporting communities and families Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe
	Adult Social Care Performance, Finance and Risk Update/ Public Health Performance, Finance and Risk Update	Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care/ Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To provide a progress report on departmental performance, risk, and financial position for Adult Social Care and Public Health (two individual reports).	Standing item	Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives Supporting communities and families Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – ADULT SOCIAL CARE & PUBLIC HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
25 November 2024	Nottinghamshire Adults Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2024/25 and Plan		To receive the Nottinghamshire Adults Safeguarding Board Annual Report and Plan. To be presented by the Independent Chair with other partners also being invited to attend.	Annual item	Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe
	Progress and implementation of Prevention approach	Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care	To consider the development of the prevention approach and offer in Adult Social Care.	Work Programming session	Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives
	Social Care Market	Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care	Focus around recruitment and retention.	Committee meeting	Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives Supporting communities and families Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe
	Adult Social Care Performance, Finance and Risk Update/ Public Health Performance, Finance and Risk Update	Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care/ Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To provide a progress report on departmental performance, risk, and financial position for Adult Social Care and Public Health (two individual reports).	Standing item	Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives Supporting communities and families Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – ADULT SOCIAL CARE & PUBLIC HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
3 March 2025	Technology enabled care	Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care	To examine how technology is being used to support the delivery of Adult Care services.	Work Programming session	Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives A forward looking and resilient Council.
	Discharge to Assess	Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care	To examine the Council's role in the delivery of the discharge to assess service.	Committee meeting/Work Programming session	Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives
	Day Opportunities Strategy	Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care	To receive a progress report on the implementation of the Day Opportunities Strategy	Work Programming session	Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives
	Adult Social Care Performance, Finance and Risk Update	Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care	To provide a progress report on departmental performance, risk, and financial position for Adult Social Care and Public Health (two individual reports).	Standing item	Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives Supporting communities and families Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe
	Public Health Performance, Finance and Risk Update	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To provide a progress report on departmental performance, risk, and financial position for Public Health (To include a progress report on the delivery of the Integrated Sexual Health Service)	Standing item	Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives Supporting communities and families Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – ADULT SOCIAL CARE & PUBLIC HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
21 July 2025	Occupational Therapy	Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care	To examine the delivery and performance of the Occupational Therapy Service	Work Programming session	Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives
	Public Health – Community facing activities (including Community Health and Wellbeing Champions)	Cabinet Member - Communities and Public Health	To examine the impact of Public Health – Community facing activities	Work Programming session	Supporting communities and families
	Domestic Abuse Strategy	Cabinet Member - Communities and Public Health	To consider the draft refreshed Domestic Abuse Strategy.	Work Programming session	Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe
	Integrated Wellbeing Service	Cabinet Member - Communities and Public Health	To examine the delivery and impact of Integrated Wellbeing Service	Work Programming session	Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives
	Adult Social Care Performance, Finance and Risk Update	Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care	To provide a progress report on departmental performance, risk, and financial position for Adult Social Care and Public Health (two individual reports).	Standing item	Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives Supporting communities and families Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe
	Public Health Performance, Finance and Risk Update	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To provide a progress report on departmental performance, risk, and financial position for Public Health	Standing item	Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives Supporting communities and families Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – ADULT SOCIAL CARE & PUBLIC HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

Items pending scheduling or removal.

Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
NHS Health Check Programme	Cabinet Member - Communities and Public Health	Resolved at September 2023 meeting: That a further report on the delivery of the NHS Health Check Programme that covers the issues as detailed at a) and (b) above, be brought to a future meeting of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee at a date to be agreed by the Chairman.	Committee meeting	Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives
Best Start Strategy	Cabinet Member - Communities and Public Health	To consider the development of the Best Start Strategy	Work Programming session	Supporting communities and families

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – ADULT SOCIAL CARE & PUBLIC HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

Reviews

Project Start Date	Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of Review	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
TBC	<p>Transition of service users from Children and Young People's Services to Adult Social Care Services</p> <p>Joint item with Children and Families Select Committee</p>	<p>Cabinet Member – Children and Families</p> <p>Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care</p>	<p>To examine the current procedures surrounding the transition of service users from Children's to Adult Services.</p> <p>To make recommendations on how procedures could be developed to ensure the best possible transition for each service user.</p>	Work Programming 2023/24	<p>Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives</p> <p>Supporting communities and families</p> <p>Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe</p>
TBC	Preventative work around smoking and vaping.	<p>Cabinet Member – Children and Families</p> <p>Cabinet Member - Communities and Public Health</p>	<p>Resolved at the September 2023 meeting:</p> <p>That a task and finish review takes place to investigate the impact and effectiveness of the preventative work that takes place with schools around smoking and vaping.</p> <p>To be scheduled once new legislation about tobacco sales and vaping comes into force.</p>	Committee meeting	Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – ADULT SOCIAL CARE & PUBLIC HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

Items to be scheduled for 2025/26

Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention Strategy.	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To examine the implementation and impact of the Self Harm and Suicide Prevention Strategy. September 2025	Committee meeting	Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe

Items for information briefings for committee members

Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
7 October 2024	Outcomes and Experiences of Children and Young People with SEND – Progress Report	Cabinet Member - Education and SEND	To examine the progress made by the Nottinghamshire local area SEND Partnership in implementing improvements to the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND.	Committee meeting	Supporting communities and families
	Performance, Finance and Risk Update	Cabinet Member - Children and Families/Cabinet Member - Education and SEND	To provide a progress report on departmental performance, risk and financial position.	Committee meeting	Supporting communities and families Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe
	Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs)	Cabinet Member - Education and SEND	To receive a progress report on the activity that has been carried out since the completion of the task and finish review of EHCPs. Also to cover the upcoming contract in for assessments in support of EHCPs	Committee meeting	Supporting communities and families
	Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) – Progress Report on Priorities and Annual Report 2023/24	Cabinet Member - Children and Families	To receive the NSCP Annual Report.	Annual item	Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe
	Outcomes of the review of secondary pupil place planning		To consider the findings of the scrutiny review of secondary pupil place planning. Page 103 of 118		Supporting communities and families

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
2 December 2024	Outcomes and Experiences of Children and Young People with SEND – Progress Report	Cabinet Member - Education and SEND	To examine the progress made by the Nottinghamshire local area SEND Partnership in implementing improvements to the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND.	Committee meeting	Supporting communities and families
	Youth Services/ Local Authority Approach to Youth Provision in Nottinghamshire	Cabinet Member - Children and Families	To examine the provision of Youth Services.	Work Programming session.	Supporting communities and families
	Early Years Provision of Childcare	Cabinet Member – Children and Families	Resolved at February 2024 meeting “That a further report on the Early Years and Childcare Sector in Nottinghamshire be received at the January 2025 meeting of the Children and Families Select Committee.”	Committee meeting	Supporting communities and families
	Child Exploitation Support	Cabinet Member - Children and Families	To examine the Council’s approach to tackling child exploitation.	Work Programming session	Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
17 March 2025	Outcomes and Experiences of Children and Young People with SEND – Progress Report	Cabinet Member - Education and SEND	To examine the progress made by the Nottinghamshire local area SEND Partnership in implementing improvements to the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND.	Committee meeting	Supporting communities and families
	Performance, Finance and Risk Update	Cabinet Member - Children and Families/Cabinet Member - Education and SEND	To provide a progress report on departmental performance, risk and financial position.	Committee meeting	Supporting communities and families Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe
	Children not in school/Elective Home Education	Cabinet Member - Education and SEND	To examine activity around the new requirements to maintain a record of all children not in school. Also to consider issues relating to children to why children are withdrawn from school	Work Programming session	Supporting communities and families
	Family Hubs	Cabinet Member – Children and Families	To examine the delivery of Family Hubs. Site visits in advance of the meeting.	Work Programming session	Supporting communities and families
	Impact of VAT on private school fees on school places.	Cabinet Member - Education and SEND	To examine whether there has been an impact on demand for school places due the introduction of VAT on private school fees.	Work Programming session	Supporting communities and families
	Outcomes of the review of fostering recruitment and retention		To consider the findings of the scrutiny review of fostering recruitment and retention Page 105 of 118	Work Programming session	Supporting communities and families

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
14 July 2025	Outcomes and Experiences of Children and Young People with SEND – Progress Report	Cabinet Member - Education and SEND	To examine the progress made by the Nottinghamshire local area SEND Partnership in implementing improvements to the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND.	Committee	Supporting communities and families
	Workforce recruitment and retention	Cabinet Member - Education and SEND	To examine the issues and activity being carried out around workforce recruitment and retention.	Work Programming session	Building skills that help people to get good local jobs A forward looking and resilient council
	Youth Justice Plan	Cabinet Member – Children and Families	To examine the delivery of the Youth Justice Plan.	Work Programming session	Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe
	Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) – Annual Report	Cabinet Member - Education and SEND	To receive the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) – Annual Report	Annual item	Supporting communities and families
	Developing the approach to meeting children's needs through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub	Cabinet Member – Children and Families	To receive a progress report on the approach to meeting children's needs through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub	Committee meeting	Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE

Items pending scheduling or removal.

Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE

Reviews

Project Start Date	Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of Review	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
November 2024	Fostering recruitment and retention	Cabinet Member - Children and Families	Agreed during 2023/24. Scope has been drafted.	Committee	Supporting communities and families
TBC	Transition of Service Users from Children and Families Services to Adult Social Care Services (Joint item with the Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee)	Cabinet Member - Children and Families Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health	To examine the current procedures surrounding the transition of service users from Children's to Adult Services. To make recommendations on how procedures could be developed to ensure the best possible transition for each service user.	Committee	Supporting communities and families Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE

Items to be scheduled for 2025/26

Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
Small Schools Sustainability Strategy	Cabinet Member - Education and SEND	Strategy being considered by Cabinet September 2024. To be considered for scheduling for 2025/26.	Work Programming session	Supporting communities and families

Items for information briefings for committee members

Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
18 September 2024	Access to Digital Services and Digital Inclusion	Cabinet Member – Economic Development and Asset Management	To receive a report on, and to scrutinise activity regarding the Council’s activity regarding access to superfast broadband and digital inclusion.	Work Programming 2022/23	Improving transport and digital connections
	Catering and Facilities Management Service	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To receive a progress report on the work being carried out on changes to the service delivery model of the Catering and Facilities Management Service.	Committee meeting	A forward looking and resilient Council Supporting communities and families
	Outcome of the review of residents’ parking schemes		To receive and consider the outcomes of the scrutiny review of residents’ parking schemes.	Committee meeting	Improving transport and digital connections

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
11 December 2024	Catering and Facilities Management Service	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To receive a progress report on the work being carried out on changes to the service delivery model of the Catering and Facilities Management Service.	Committee meeting	A forward looking and resilient Council Supporting communities and families
	Lane Rental Scheme	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	To receive a report on the development of the Lane Rental Scheme.	Work Programming session	Improving transport and digital connections

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
21 January 2025	Highways Joint Innovation and Continuous Improvement Plan	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	To receive a progress report on the delivery of the outcomes of the Highways Joint Innovation and Continuous Improvement Plan.	Committee meeting	Improving transport and digital connections
	Outcomes of the review of flooding preparation and response		To receive and consider the outcomes of flooding preparation and response.	Council Motion December 2023	Supporting communities and families Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
12 March 2025	Crime and Disorder	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To sit as the Council's statutory Crime and Disorder committee to scrutinise delivery of crime and disorder strategies. To meet the requirements of the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.	Annual item	Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe
	Rights of Way	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	To examine how the Council maintains rights of way across Nottinghamshire.	Work Programming session	Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit
	Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	To consider the activity around the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	Department	Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
16 July 2025	EV Charging	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	To receive a progress report on the delivery of the On-Street Low Emission Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Programme.	Committee meeting	Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint Improving transport and digital connections
	Communication with communities and community resilience	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To examine how the Council communicates with communities and supports the development of community resilience.	Work Programming session	Supporting communities and families
	20mph Speed limits	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	To examine the issues around the introduction and enforcement of 20mph speed limits.	Committee meeting	Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe Improving transport and digital connections
	HWRCs	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	To receive a progress report on activity around the recommendations of the scrutiny review.	Committee meeting	Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

Items pending scheduling or removal.

Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
Waste and recycling .	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	To consider how the Council is suitably prepared for system changes required for simpler recycling. To be scheduled once approach required from Government is clearer.	Work Programming session	Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

Reviews

Project Start Date	Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of Review	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
Spring 2025	Country Parks	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To scrutinise the delivery of Country Parks.	Work Programming session	Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit.
TBC	Registration Services/Every Contact Counts	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To review how the service delivering services and meeting challenges.	Work Programming session	Supporting communities and families
TBC	Inward investment Framework	Cabinet Member – Economic Development and Asset Management	To feed into the development of the framework that will allow inward investment activities to be coordinated and prioritised.	Work Programming 2022/23	A forward looking and resilient Council

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

Items to be scheduled for 2025/26

Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
Inspire	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To examine how Inspire is delivering cultural, learning and library services across Nottinghamshire.	Committee meeting	Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit Supporting communities and families
Added Social Value	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To scrutinise how Arc/Via/Inspire deliver social value.	Work Programming session	Attracting investment in infrastructure, the economy, and green growth

Items for information briefings for committee members

Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
Visitor Economy Framework	Cabinet Member – Economic Development and Asset Management	To receive a briefing note on the delivery of the Visitor Economy Framework.	Committee meeting	Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit.
Lengthsman Scheme	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	To receive a briefing note on the delivery of the scheme.	Work Programming session	Improving transport and digital connections Supporting communities and families