

Scrutiny Annual Report 2025/26



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Introduction from the Chairman of Overview Committee



Councillor Cathy Mason

Welcome to the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2025/26. The report details the work of Overview Committee and of the three Select Committees over the past year and shows how scrutiny has supported the delivery of the Council's ambitions as set out in "Our Council Plan".

This last year has been a particularly important year, marking the first full year of scrutiny activity following the 2025 County Council elections. With both new and returning members across all committees, scrutiny has benefited from fresh perspectives, renewed energy and a strong commitment to carrying out effective challenge and constructive engagement.

Scrutiny remains a vital element of the Council's governance arrangements. Through detailed examination of policies, decisions and performance, scrutiny members play a key role in ensuring that the Council remains accountable and responsive to residents.

Scrutiny is most effective where it has engaged openly with Cabinet Members, officers and partners, drawing on information and on a wide range of perspectives to inform its work. This collaborative approach enables scrutiny not only to challenge where necessary, but also to add value by supporting improvement and innovation. Throughout the year Overview Committee and the three Select Committees have focused on the critical issues being faced by the Council and have provided constructive input to improve outcomes for residents.

During the year, 21 scrutiny committee meetings were held, and three detailed task and finish reviews were carried out.

Important work carried out by scrutiny members this year has included:

- the detailed budget scrutiny that was carried out ahead of the Budget and Council Tax being agreed by Council.
- examining, and making recommendations on how the Council, alongside Via East Midlands can work most effectively to improve road safety across Nottinghamshire's road network and reduce the number of collisions and casualties.
- scrutinising the progress being made across the Nottinghamshire local area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership in implementing improvements to the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND.

- examining the support available to support survivors of domestic abuse and putting into place training for all members on dealing with the impact of domestic abuse in their communities.
- gaining assurance around the delivery of the new county-wide Occupational Therapy service.

I would like to place on record my thanks to all members of the Overview Committee and the three Select Committees, as well as to co-opted members and officers for their dedication and contribution over the past year. Their commitment to open, constructive and informed scrutiny is essential in ensuring that the Council continues to deliver services to residents effectively.

Looking ahead, the Council faces a wide range of complex challenges and opportunities, especially around the changes coming ahead around Local Government Reorganisation. In these times of change, scrutiny, must, and will continue to play a key role in supporting informed decision-making, maintaining accountability and ensuring that the needs of Nottinghamshire's communities remain at the heart of everything the Council does.

The next year will be an exceptionally busy one as scrutiny continues to support the delivery of the ambitions of the Council, and I look forward to working with all Scrutiny members, Cabinet members and officers to deliver high-quality scrutiny throughout 2026/27.

Councillor Cathy Mason, Chairman of Overview Committee

What is scrutiny?

Scrutiny aims to ensure that the services delivered by the Council best meet the needs of Nottinghamshire's residents. Scrutiny acts as the check and balance to the Council's Executive decision makers, the Cabinet, by contributing to policy review and development, holding the Cabinet and delivery partners to account for decisions and performance and by investigating issues that matter to residents.

Who is involved?

Any Councillor who is not a member of the Cabinet can participate. Committees also have co-opted members and dedicated officer support. Cabinet Members, senior officers, and representatives of partner organisations are also invited to attend meetings to discuss issues.

What kinds of things can scrutiny look at?

At the start of the municipal year, Overview Committee and the three select committees create their work programmes by each drawing up a list of possible items that its members would like to look at over the coming year. From these long lists members then prioritise which issues they would like to look in detail. Due to the time commitment and effort required to examine issues meaningfully it is not always possible to include all items in the scrutiny work programmes. When agreeing which items to look at, members will consider whether the issue:

- is one where can scrutiny make a meaningful impact.
- impacts on residents and communities across Nottinghamshire.
- supports the ambitions of Our Council Plan.

Is there anything scrutiny can't examine?

Individual complaints or regulatory decisions are not appropriate topics for scrutiny.

Is scrutiny political?

Members across all political groups participate, setting aside party politics to look objectively at issues, basing their findings on evidence.

What happens in Scrutiny Committee meetings?

Scrutiny committee meetings are formal and held in public. They provide a forum whereby councillors can:

- discuss written information they have received from the council and external bodies.
- Gather information from attendees, which could include other councillors, council officers, experts, representatives from other organisations and members of the public.
- question attendees to gain a better understanding of the issues.
- draw conclusions from their discussions and the evidence examined, in the form of an outcome.

What is the role of each Committee?

The Council's Constitution details the role of each committee in detail. The main responsibilities of each committee are:

Overview Committee

- Scrutinise and review any matter under the responsibility of the Chief Executive's Department.

- Scrutinise and review any matter that falls within the remit of the Director of Public Health and Communities' directorate.
- Coordinate the work of three select committees (including approving each committee's work programme) to ensure the time of select committees is used effectively and efficiently.
- Scrutinise the implementation of Our Council Plan.
- Support Cabinet in the creation of the Council's Budget.
- Consider Call-in requests.

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee

- Scrutinise and review any matter under the responsibility of the Adult Social Care and Health Department.

Children and Families Select Committee

- Scrutinise and review any matter under the responsibility of the Children and Families Department.

Place Select Committee

- Scrutinise and review any matter under the responsibility of the Place Department.
- Carry out the Council's statutory responsibility for flood risk management scrutiny.
- Carry out the Council's statutory responsibility for crime and disorder scrutiny.

What are Task and finish groups?

Task and finish groups are informal, usually small and time-limited bodies comprised of councillors that are established by a scrutiny committee to undertake a discrete piece of scrutiny work before reporting back to that committee with their findings and recommendations.

What is Call-in?

Call-in provides a mechanism for councillors to intervene when they feel that a decision being made by the executive needs to be revisited (or possibly changed) because they do not believe that the principles of good decision-making have been followed. It provides a key check and balance in the leader/cabinet system of governance.

What about Health Scrutiny?

In Nottinghamshire, the Council's Statutory Health Scrutiny Committee that examines the delivery of externally delivered health services across the County, such as NHS dental services and access to GP's, operates independently from the Overview Committee and the three select committees. Coordination of work programmes between the committees does take place to ensure that the work of the Health Scrutiny Committee and of the other committees are aligned and not duplicated. Further information on the work of the Health Scrutiny Committee can be accessed [here](#).

Scrutiny in action



Members of the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee examine some of the technological solutions that can be used to enable residents to remain more independent in their own homes for longer. (March 2026)



Members of the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee visited Brooke Farm at Linby to see how the employment training programme helps people with learning disabilities and Autism gain the skills and confidence that can lead them into paid employment and a brighter more independent future. (January 2026)



Members of the Place Select Committee visit the Materials Recovery Facility in Mansfield to see how the materials collected through kerb side recycling collections are sorted and processed. (October 2025)



Members of the Place Select Committee visit the Eastcroft incinerator in Nottingham to see how residual waste is processed and turned into energy. (November 2025)



Members and officers visit Sherwood Forest (above) and Rufford Abbey (below) to learn how services are delivered as part of the Place Select Committee's review of the Council's country parks. (July 2026)



Our Council Plan

Our Council Plan represents a bold and ambitious vision for Nottinghamshire, with the aim of building stronger families, thriving communities, and a connected county. Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives.

The activity detailed in the Plan is built around the aim of making life better for families and communities across the county. To achieve this, the Plan is structured around three key Outcomes the Council wants to achieve for our residents over the next four years with each outcome being supported by a set of related priorities.

- **Stronger families, caring connections** – We believe everyone should get the best start in life, with all children able to access a good education and live in a loving family home. As we grow and live our lives, we know that family – the people we feel close connections with – help us feel cared for and supported.

(Celebrating our carers, No child left behind, Safe and supported, The best start in life)

- **Rooted in communities, thriving together** – We believe that having a place to call home and feeling part of your community helps people stay healthy, safe, and independent. We want to support friends, neighbours, and local groups to look out for one another, stepping in and providing help when someone needs it.

(A place to call home, Healthier, happier lives, Looking out for each other, Resilient communities,)

- **A connected county, creating opportunity** – We want Nottinghamshire to be a strong and successful county that attracts the investment and development it deserves. We will work to make sure that any investment benefits local people—by improving transport, digital connections, the condition of our road network and protecting our local environment.

(A thriving local environment, An economy for everyone, Better connected, Pathways to employment)

A fourth area of focus – **a Council that leads, a Council that listens** – serves as the Council's internally focussed theme that aims to improve our own ways of working. It focuses on efficiency, working more closely with communities, developing a skilled, committed workforce, whilst being forward-looking and collaborating with partners to maximise the opportunities of local and national policy changes.

The following sections provide a summary of the work undertaken by the Overview Committee and the three select committees during 2025/26 and details how the Council's Scrutiny function has worked to support delivery of the ambitions that are detailed in Our Council Plan.

Stronger Families, Caring Connections

Celebrating our carers

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire All-Age Carers Strategy

A carer is adult or child—who provides regular, unpaid care and support to a family member, partner, friend, or neighbour. In Nottinghamshire there are over 80,000 unpaid carers, with around 1,100 of these carers being under the age of 16.

In September, the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee examined how the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire All-Age Carers Strategy was being put into action to support carers of all ages

across the county. The strategy's vision is "to support and work in true and active partnership with carers and their families for them to achieve healthy, balanced lives, to give them the confidence that they will be supported in a fair, respected and honest way by all the agencies they come into contact with". At the meeting members examined how the activity that was being put into place to support the carers across Nottinghamshire was supporting the delivery of this vision.

As a result of the discussion, members noted that good progress was being made in both identifying, and in providing support to carers. The committee agreed however, that to further support carers, all members had a role in encouraging carers in their communities to come forwards and to access the support that was available to support them in carrying out such an important role.

No child left behind

SEND

During 2025/26, the Children and Families Select Committee maintained regular oversight of the Nottinghamshire SEND local area partnership's progress in addressing the significant concerns identified in the 2023 Ofsted and CQC inspection.

A key milestone during the year was the outcome of the 2025 monitoring inspection, which found that the partnership had taken effective action to address the priority areas relating to the timeliness of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and access to services.

Throughout the year the Committee was pleased to see evidence of measurable improvement in how services are delivered, particularly in the timeliness and quality of EHCPs, alongside targeted action being carried out to reduce waiting times for therapies and in improving support for families. The Committee also recognised the positive impact that stronger partnership working, improved use of data, and an increasing focus on co-production with children, young people and their families was having.

Whilst recognising the positive progress and the findings of the monitoring inspection, members have emphasised the need to sustain this good progress and in ensuring that improvements are consistently seen and experienced across the system.

The Children and Families Select Committee will continue to maintain close oversight of SEND throughout 2026/27, examining how the partnership builds on the progress made so far and on how the partnership will be delivering the Council's Local SEND Reform Plan and the Nottinghamshire Local Area SEND Strategy.

SEND Transport and School Travel Assistance

Across England, the SEND system is experiencing sustained increase in need, rising placement complexity, and significant inflationary and market capacity pressures. These national issues are in turn leading to rising costs which are putting pressure on the delivery of Nottinghamshire's home to school transport provision for children and young people with SEND, the provision of which is a statutory responsibility for the Council.

Members of the Place and Children and Families Select Committees are currently carrying out a detailed task and finish review around how the Council delivers SEND Transport and School Travel Assistance that will enable members to:

- assess the key challenges for the Council in delivering SEND transport.
- identify and evaluate possible future delivery options for SEND transport and mainstream school travel assistance.

- consider the impact of these changes to how services are delivered on children, young people, families, service quality, and on the Council's financial sustainability.

The findings of this review will be received by the Place Select Committee in Autumn 2026 in advance of them being submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

Safe and supported

Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report

The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) provides the safeguarding arrangements under which safeguarding partners and relevant agencies work together to coordinate children's safeguarding services across Nottinghamshire.

In October, the Children and Families Select Committee received the NSCP's annual report for 2024/25. At the meeting members examined how the NSCP was fulfilling its duties and how the NSCP was coordinating the multi-agency arrangements that were in place to deliver effective safeguarding activity that would protect children and young people across Nottinghamshire. After an in-depth and detailed discussion, members were confident that the NSCP was fulfilling its duties but sought further information and assurance around:

- how the learning outcomes from the four rapid reviews that had been completed during the year would be embedded in work processes to further develop effective safeguarding practices.
- how the Partnership had moved from a 'thresholds' to a 'needs-led' approach for safeguarding children to identify safeguarding issues at the earliest opportunity and provide the correct support and how this was supporting and strengthening safeguarding activity in Nottinghamshire.

From the further information that was provided, members gained the assurance that focussed and impactful activity was being carried out in these important areas of the partnership's work. The Children and Families Select Committee will continue the important work of scrutinising safeguarding activity for children and young people when it receives the 2025/26 NSCP annual report at its October 2026 meeting.

The Big Conversation

The Big Conversation, first delivered in 2023, provides a vital opportunity for people across Nottinghamshire who draw on care and support, along with their families, friends and carers to share their experiences and ideas around the delivery and priorities of Adult Social Care. The insights gathered were then used shape the key priorities for Adult Social Care and established a strong foundation for ongoing dialogue with residents. Building on this success, a new round of Big Conversations was carried out in 2025 to continue listening and learning from people across Nottinghamshire. This follow-up activity aimed to deepen understanding of what matters most to local communities, explore how views and experiences may have evolved, and ensure that a wide and diverse range of voices were included.

In December, the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee looked the findings of the Big Conversation and examined and considered how they would be used to help develop Adult Social Care priorities for 2026 to 2028.

Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy helps people of all ages overcome physical, mental, or cognitive challenges to perform everyday activities—or "occupations"—independently. It focuses on enabling individuals to live as fully as possible by adapting tasks, environments, and routines.

In June 2025, following engagement with residents who accessed care and support, their carers and with staff, a redesigned countywide Occupational therapy service was launched.

At the September meeting of the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee members examined the activity that had been carried out in the implementation of the redesigned service and how it had been performing in meeting its objectives. Members welcomed the early positive feedback that had been received on the new countywide service but agreed that a further report should be brought to the committee once the service had been in operation for a year to enable members to fully examine its impact. This report was received at the June meeting where members were pleased to note the good performance and positive impact, that having had time to establish, the redesigned service was delivering for Nottinghamshire residents.

Nottinghamshire Adults Safeguarding Board Annual Report and Plan

The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) is made up of representatives from organisations including, Nottinghamshire Police, the Crown Prosecution Service, the NHS, local councils, and voluntary organisations. Its main responsibility is to get these organisations working together to help adults who may have been abused and to help prevent adults from being abused.

In December, the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee received the NSAB annual report for 2024/25 and took the opportunity to discuss how the NSAB was working to deliver on its strategic priorities and ensure that effective safeguarding practices were embedded across the partnership.

After an in-depth and varied discussion members were confident that the NSAB was effectively delivering adult safeguarding across Nottinghamshire but sought further assurance around how concerns raised through whistleblowing were being used to further inform the priorities and activities of the Board. Members also agreed that in order to enable all councillors to effectively act as community champions on issues around safeguarding it would be beneficial to for all councillors to receive training on safeguarding and on their role in communities. This training was delivered in June 2026.

The Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee will continue the important work of scrutinising safeguarding activity for adults when it receives the 2025/26 NSAB annual report later this year.

Care Quality and Assurance

In March, the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee examined the how the Council was meeting its statutory duty under the Care Act 2014 to ensure that a sustainable and high-quality adult social care market was in place in Nottinghamshire to enable residents to be able to access the right type of quality care for their individual needs.

Prevention in Adult Social Care

The Care Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to prevent, reduce or delay the development of care and support needs and requires councils to provide or arrange prevention services to support this aim. A focus on prevention can improve outcomes for people, increase independence and promote wellbeing.

In June, the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee looked at how the Council was delivering on this duty and how it was providing a range of preventative support across

Nottinghamshire. As part of the discussion, members noted the importance of working with the community and voluntary sector in delivering preventative activity and agreed that further activity should be carried out to engage with the community and voluntary sector partners to support the delivery of preventative activities.

The best start in life

Family Hub Networks

Nottinghamshire's Family Hub Networks aim to join up local services for children and families, providing a 'front door' so that families can easily access the help that they need. Family Hub Networks aim to offer a range of help and support from pregnancy, throughout childhood and into early adulthood, including with preparing for a baby, child development, parenting support, health and wellbeing, relationships and communication, finances and employment.

In December, the Children and Families Select Committee received a progress report on the work that was being carried out in the continued implementation and development of Family Hub Networks across Nottinghamshire. At the meeting members examined how the networks would support activity to ensure that as many children as possible are school ready when they start school and how different services would be brought together to deliver a joined-up service offer for families.

During 2026/27 the Children and Families Select Committee will be examining how the continued roll out of Family Hub Networks are having a positive impact on children and families and on how the service offer for families of school aged children is being further developed.

Families First Partnership Programme

The Families First Partnership Programme is a system-wide transformation of children's social care in England that is centred around early intervention, multi-agency working, and empowering families, to build resilience in families and reduce the need for crisis intervention.

In March, the Children and Families Select Committee received a report on the progress being made in delivering on the objectives of the Families First Partnership Programme and how their implementation would have a positive impact on children and families in Nottinghamshire.

At the meeting members welcomed the work that had been carried out so far in starting the system transformation and how this activity would start to deliver noticeable differences in how services were delivered over the following 12 months. Members agreed that due to the changes being system wide it was important that community and voluntary sector organisations were fully engaged with the process and asked that further consideration be given to how these organisations could best be involved.

School attendance

In December, the Children and Families Select Committee looked into how the Council was working alongside schools, families and system partners in supporting good levels of school attendance in Nottinghamshire and how it was meeting its statutory duties in this area.

The Virtual School

The Virtual School is the Council's statutory service to promote the educational achievement of our looked after children who are aged between 3 -18 years old. The Virtual School is not a school as such, but works with schools, social workers, carers, parents and other professionals to help our looked after children to achieve their educational potential and in supporting them to have the skills to succeed in life after leaving education.

In July, the Children and Families Select Committee examined how the Virtual School was supporting and enabling our looked after children in improving attendance and reducing suspensions and in increasing the number of young people in education, employment and training post-16.

Healthy Families Programme

The Nottinghamshire Healthy Families Programme is a public health nursing service that supports families to give their children the best start in life. At the end of the previous delivery contract, and following a competitive procurement process, a new contract between the Council and Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust for the delivery of the Healthy Families Programme began on 1 October 2025.

At the July meeting of Overview Committee, members examined the performance of the Healthy Families Programme during the first six months of operation under the new contract. At the meeting members sought to gain assurance on the effective delivery of the mandated parts of the programme as well as on the implementation of the new elements of the service that had been included in the new contract. In addition to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health and officers, a representative of the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust was also in attendance at the meeting to answer member questions on the delivery of this vital service. After a detailed and in-depth discussion, members agreed that the service was being well delivered and felt confident that action was being taken to improve performance in the few areas of the service that were not yet quite at the required levels of performance.

Overview Committee will continue to monitor and examine the performance of the Healthy Families Programme during 2026/27.

Small Schools' Sustainability Strategy

In July, the Children and Families Select Committee examined the delivery of the Council's Small Schools' Sustainability Strategy which is in place to support leaders and governors in maintained schools across Nottinghamshire with low pupil numbers to take effective action to secure the future of their schools.

Rooted in communities, Thriving Together

A place to call home

Recruitment and retention of Foster Carers

The Council's Fostering Service has been facing significant challenges in recent years in being able to recruit and retain enough foster carers to care for our looked after children. In Autumn 2024, members of the Children Families Select Committee carried out a task and finish review that examined how the Council was working to increase the number of in-house foster carers.

During the review process, members sought to understand the current challenges being faced by the Council in recruiting and retaining foster carers. As a result of the review, members of the review group made a series of recommendations on how the Council could work to encourage more people to become, and very importantly, to remain as foster carers with the Council around:

- making further enhancements to the Council's payment and benefits package for foster carers.
- ensuring that our foster carers feel valued and supported in providing such a vital service.

- reviewing the Council's Human Resources policies and practices to ensure that they are fully "Fostering Friendly".
- hosting a variety of high-profile recognition events to further champion and publicise the vital role and achievements of foster carers across Nottinghamshire.

The findings of the review were considered by Cabinet in September 2025 where all of the recommendations were accepted.

In July, a progress report that detailed the work that had been carried out in implementing the recommendations from the review was considered by the Children and Families Select Committee. At the meeting members were pleased to learn about the significant amount of activity that had taken place around supporting the recruitment and retention foster carers over the past year which would in turn enable more of our looked after children to live in a home-based placement.

During 2026/27, the Children and Families will be examining the long-term impact of the work that is being carried out to increase the number of foster carers in Nottinghamshire.

Housing and Supported Accommodation

Whilst primary responsibility for housing in Nottinghamshire sits with District and Borough Councils, the Council is responsible for assessing and meeting the needs of individuals who require care and support under its Care Act 2014 duties. This includes commissioning, funding, and in some cases directly providing the support that accompanies accommodation. In June, the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee examined how the Council was delivering on its duties around housing and the provision of supported accommodation. At the meeting members agreed to ask Cabinet to further explore the opportunities to accelerate the delivery of supported living and extra care accommodation to further reduce the reliance on residential care.

Kinship Care

Kinship carers are family or friends who step up, often during an unexpected crisis, to care for a child when their parents can't. Kinship carers are usually grandparents, aunts or uncles, brothers or sisters, a stepparent, stepbrother or stepsister, or someone who isn't related but knows the child well. That relative or friend is known as a 'kinship carer' or 'connected person'.

Recognising the benefit that kinship care offers to children and families, Our Council Plan states that one of the Council's main priorities for the next four years is to encourage "more people to become foster, kinship or shared lives carers, and adopters, giving them the support they need to keep caring, so that more people in care can live in loving family homes."

To support the delivery of this ambition, in Spring 2025, members of the Children and Families Select Committee started a review to consider how the Council can best support kinship carers in Nottinghamshire and to identify areas of activity where the support offered to kinship carers could be further developed and expanded.

The findings of this review will be presented at the October 2026 meeting of the Children and Families Select Committee.

Healthier, happier lives

Women's Health

In September, Overview Committee received the Director of Public Health and Communities Annual Report that was focussed on the issue of Women's Health. Women in Nottinghamshire currently spend more years in ill health than men and compared to women who live in other areas of England. This issue had also been highlighted as an important area for further exploration and activity by scrutiny members in 2024 when they had examined public health outcomes in Nottinghamshire.

The report detailed a set of recommendations that had been designed to help to address the challenges being faced around healthy female life expectancy in Nottinghamshire and members took the opportunity to examine how these recommendations would be put into place to start making a positive impact for women across Nottinghamshire. At the meeting members stated their commitment to sharing and raising awareness of the contents of the Annual Report with residents across their communities to support the activity being carried out in supporting women's health in Nottinghamshire.

Blue Badges

The Blue Badge Scheme is a vital service that supports individuals with severe mobility issues, both visible and hidden, by enabling them to park closer to their destinations, and each year the Council processes around 29,000 Blue Badge applications.

In Autumn 2024, Overview Committee carried out a review around the application and issuing processes for Blue Badges. Whilst the review process did identify some specific areas of service delivery where there were opportunities for procedures to be developed further to deliver enhanced levels of efficiency and customer service, members of the review group agreed that the Council's delivery of the Blue Badge scheme should be seen as an example of best practice. After being approved by Overview Committee, the review's recommendations were considered by Cabinet where all the review recommendations were accepted for implementation.

In March 2026, Overview Committee received a progress report that detailed how the review recommendations had been implemented since they had been accepted by Cabinet. Members were satisfied from the report that all the recommendations had been fully implemented and were pleased to learn how the service had continued develop and deliver the best possible service to residents.

Domestic Abuse Strategy

Nottinghamshire County Council holds a statutory responsibility to prevent, protect, and support those affected by domestic abuse within the county.

In March, Overview Committee examined the draft Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026 – 29 in advance of it being considered by Cabinet for approval. As a result of the discussions at the meeting, members committed to sharing information on the available training opportunities around domestic abuse that were open to all and to promote the specialist domestic abuse support services that are available across Nottinghamshire within their communities.

At the meeting members also agreed that in order to enable all councillors to effectively act as community champions on issues around domestic abuse it would be beneficial to for all councillors to receive training on responding to domestic abuse issues in their communities. This training was delivered in May 2026.

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention Strategy 2024-29

Suicide is a major public health issue and a leading cause of years of life lost, significantly impacting individuals, families, communities and society. In May, Overview Committee members examined the work being carried out to support self-harm and suicide prevention across Nottinghamshire.

To support this important work, members agreed to work to raise awareness of the Zero Suicide Alliance Training and the NottAlone website across their networks and communities and agreed that all councillors should aim to have positive conversations in their local communities about self-harm and suicide prevention to break down stigma, normalise seeking help, and to help build supportive networks in their communities.

Overview Committee will be receiving a further progress report during 2026/27 to further examine the work being carried out around suicide prevention in Nottinghamshire.

Promotion of healthy lifestyles and activity around reducing obesity

Smoking, unhealthy weight and physical inactivity are amongst the biggest preventable causes of poor health outcomes, directly contributing to illnesses that significantly lower life expectancy and healthy life expectancy. In March, Overview Committee looked at the activity being carried out across the local system to support Nottinghamshire residents to have healthier lifestyles and to support reductions in the local prevalence of smoking, excess weight and obesity to gain assurance on their reach and impact in improving the health of Nottinghamshire residents.

Thriving Communities

The Thriving Communities programme brings together activities from across the Council to support and develop communities, promoting community resilience and sustainability. In January, Overview Committee examined the work being carried out to define the ambitions and scope of this work.

At the meeting it was agreed that to support the work being carried out in the development of the Thriving Communities programme, that Overview Committee should carry out a series of short and targeted reviews to examine specific areas of activity throughout the period of its development. After a detailed discussion it was also agreed that issues around access to digital services, digital inclusion and the ability of all residents to be able to access community-based services should be examined as part of this work.

Public Health Performance and the Public Health Outcomes Framework

In November, Overview members looked at how the Council's Public Health services were performing against both local and national targets. At the meeting members sought to gain further information and clarification on the activities that were being carried out to improve the public health outcomes of all Nottinghamshire residents, particularly for those residents who lived in areas of higher deprivation or who had long term health conditions.

After discussing the report in detail, members were confident that the activities that were required to improve the health of all residents, and in particular, of residents in the more deprived areas of Nottinghamshire were being focussed on in the delivery of the Council's Public Health activities. Members also sought and gained assurance that focussed activity was being carried out to improve performance and public health outcomes for Nottinghamshire residents where outcomes for residents were not as good as they could be.

Looking out for each other

Crime and Disorder - Safer Nottinghamshire Board

Legislation requires that Councils appoint a Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee that meets at least once a year in order to look at crime and disorder issues. In Nottinghamshire the Place Select Committee carries out this role. At their March meeting, Place Select Committee examined the implementation of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board's crime and disorder strategy, the Nottinghamshire Community Safety Agreement 2025-2027.

The Place Select Committee will continue to deliver its role in delivering crime and disorder scrutiny by receiving further reports on the delivery of the Nottinghamshire Community Safety Agreement during 2026/27.

Local Communities Fund

The Local Communities Fund (LCF) was established by the Council in 2021 to support the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector in delivering community-based support initiatives across Nottinghamshire.

In March, Place Select Committee received a report on proposals for the future delivery of the LCF. At the meeting members examined how a revised approach to its delivery and ambitions would enable the funding delivered through the LCF to effectively support the delivery of the ambitions of both Our Council Plan and of the Thriving Communities programme in communities across Nottinghamshire. During the discussion at the meeting, members were focussed on gaining assurance that the LCF would be delivered fairly and equitably, and in a way that would have a positive impact in communities.

Place Select Committee will be receiving a further report during 2026/27 to examine the delivery of and impact of the LCF.

Technology Enabled Care

Since 2007 the Council has provided a Technology Enabled Care (TEC) service to help adults maintain their independence at home. The service now supports over 5,000 people through a range of TEC solutions, such as motion sensors, tele-care and reminder aids.

Immediately before the March meeting of the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee, members met with officers for a demonstration of some of the technological solutions that are available and saw firsthand how they can be used to help residents stay more independent in their own homes for longer. At the meeting members welcomed how the use and development of TEC was having a positive impact on the daily lives of residents with 82% of people receiving TEC saying that they felt more independent. As part of the wide-ranging discussion at the meeting, members examined the progress that was being made against the ambitions of the strategy as well as how the TEC offer could be expanded to include further services as technology developed.

Crisis and Resilience Fund

The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) is a Government funded three-year programme of funding for Councils to support low-income households who find themselves in a financial crisis. At the March meeting of the Place Select Committee members examined how the CRF would be delivered in Nottinghamshire, how it would be used to provide crisis support, and most importantly, how it would be used to help build financial resilience for vulnerable households. At the meeting it members

agreed that it would be useful for a short guide to be produced for members to support them in signposting residents in their communities who may be able to receive support to the scheme.

Implementation of the Day Opportunities Strategy

In 2022, the Council introduced a new five-year Day Opportunities Strategy that set out a future vision for an inclusive society where mainstream leisure and employment support is accessible to people who access care and support. At the December meeting of the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee, members examined the work that was being carried out in implementing the strategy and how this activity was supporting residents with additional needs to access high quality day opportunities that met their individual needs.

At the meeting it was noted that the total number of people using day opportunity provision since the introduction of the strategy had reduced by 8.5% which showed how the implementation of the strategy and of other activity was supporting more people to develop independence and reduce their reliance on formalised support. Members also welcomed the development of two Promoting Independence Hubs that would operate in Worksop and Bingham to support individuals in maximising their autonomy and self-confidence.

Resilient communities

Flood Risk Management

Review of flooding response and resilience

The severe flooding events brought about by Storm Babet in October 2023 was a clear indicator of the challenges posed by extreme weather conditions. During the storm and the subsequent flooding event over 1,200 properties were flooded with communities across Nottinghamshire being impacted. In 2024, members of Place Select Committee carried out a detailed task and finish review around flooding that examined the Council's preparation for, and response to the flooding caused by Storm Babet and the work being carried out to lessen the devastating effects of future floods.

The final report detailed several key findings and recommendations aimed at improving flood resilience across Nottinghamshire. These included enhancing communication during live flooding events, promoting community awareness and engagement, and in exploring innovative flood management solutions. The review also highlighted the importance of the Council's focus on maintaining clear drainage systems and gullies and the need to work closely with landowners to manage watercourses and land drainage effectively. The findings of the review were considered by Cabinet in March 2025 where all of the recommendations were accepted. At the March meeting of the Place Select Committee members received a report that detailed the progress made in implementing the review's recommendations where members were pleased to see that all the recommendations had been fully implemented.

Section 19 Reports

As part of its statutory role to scrutinise flood risk management activity, Place Select Committee considers the Section 19 reports that are compiled by the Council (as the lead local flood authority) following flooding events.

During 2025/26 Place Select Committee received reports on the flooding that had taken place in Rockley (with Markham Moor and West Drayton) during Storm Babet in October 2023 and on the flooding that had occurred across the county during the intense rainfall of early January 2025.

During their consideration of these reports, Place Select Committee was unanimous in expressing its thanks to the teams involved in supporting residents and communities across Nottinghamshire impacted by flooding and agreed that the Council had effective procedures in place to support communities, before, during and after flooding events.

Members of the committee do however have concerns that the Council, as the lead local flood authority sometimes lacks the powers to lead as effectively as it could on issues related to flooding. As such, it was agreed that the Chairman of the committee, alongside the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment would write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to highlight the opportunities around improved joint working with Risk Management Authorities that could further support lead local flood authorities in their work to alleviate and reduce the impact of flooding.

Youth Justice Strategic Plan

The Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Service works with children and young people aged between 10 and 18 years old to stay away from criminal and anti-social behaviour. In December, the Children and Families Select Committee examined the delivery of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan that sets out the priorities for the service, and which guides the delivery of the service's statutory responsibilities.

Emergency Planning

Nottinghamshire County Council has a statutory duty to plan for and to respond to a wide range of major emergencies which may include industrial accidents, serious flooding, transport disasters or terrorist attacks. In May, Place Select Committee looked at the Council's emergency preparedness arrangements for responding to such major incidents. As a result of the discussion, where the committee gained assurance that the Council was effectively meeting its statutory responsibilities, it was agreed that further training should be delivered to all councillors to assist them in being able to effectively support their communities during major incidents. This training will be delivered in Autumn 2026.

A connected county, creating opportunity

A vibrant local environment

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) are a new system of spatial strategies designed to drive nature recovery and deliver broader environmental benefits (like carbon storage and flood regulation) at a local level.

During 2024/25 Place Select Committee received two reports on the work that had been carried out in the development of a draft LNRS for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, and at the September 2025 meeting, members considered the final draft of the LNRS in advance of it being submitted to Cabinet for approval. At the meeting members requested that the valuable role that residents could play in nature recovery activity should be fully harnessed in the promotion and implementation of the LNRS.

During 2026/27 Place Select Committee will be examining how the LNRS is being implemented and is delivering on its objectives.

Country Parks

Members of the Place Select Committees are currently carrying out a detailed task and finish review around the delivery of the Council's country parks at Sherwood Forest, Rufford Abbey and at Holme Pierrepont. The review will examine how each site operates and will look to make recommendations on how the Council and its delivery partners can maximise the country parks delivery models for the benefit of residents, visitors, and in support of the delivery the ambitions set out in Our Council Plan.

The findings of this review will be received by the Place Select Committee in Autumn 2026 in advance of them being submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

Waste and recycling

Through its statutory role as a Waste Disposal Authority, the Council is responsible for the control, recycling, reprocessing, treatment and disposal of all local authority collected waste in Nottinghamshire and every year deals with approximately 400,000 tonnes of waste.

In October, members of the Place Select Committee visited the Materials Recovery Facility in Mansfield (operated by Veolia) where the recyclable materials collected from household kerbside collections are sorted in advance of being sent on for recycling. In November, members also visited the incinerator site at Eastcroft where some of the non-recyclable waste collected in Nottinghamshire is used to create energy in the form of steam and hot water, which is then used for heating and electricity generation.

At the December meeting of Place Select Committee, members looked at how the Council was preparing for the implementation of the Simpler Recycling reforms being introduced by the Government and examined how these reforms would change how waste is collected, processed and recycled in Nottinghamshire. At the meeting members sought and gained assurance that the Council was fully prepared for the upcoming changes and that it was working effectively with the district and borough councils, as well as with Veolia to implement the changes.

An economy for everyone

Visitor Economy Framework

The visitor economy is one of the UK's strongest-performing sectors, making a significant contribution to economic growth, employment and local prosperity. Local authorities can play a vital role in creating the conditions that enable this sector to flourish. While tourism is a key component, the visitor economy extends far beyond this, encompassing the attractions, destinations, infrastructure and services that draw visitors to an area and support their experience.

Following feedback from the Place Select Committee and subsequent discussion at Full Council, a refreshed Visitor Economy Framework (VEF) was approved in February 2023. The Framework sets out the Council's strategic approach to supporting and developing the visitor economy, providing a foundation for partnership working and targeted activity to strengthen the sector.

In 2025, the Place Select Committee received a progress report outlining the actions taken to implement the VEF and the progress made in supporting the continued development and growth of Nottinghamshire's visitor economy.

Better connected

Road Safety

As part of the process of developing the Place Select Committee's Work Programme for 2025/26 members expressed a wish to examine how the Council, in partnership with Via East Midlands, was working to improve road safety and to further reduce the number of road traffic collisions and injuries on Nottinghamshire's roads.

The review process showed that whilst engineered solutions, such as changes to road layouts can positively contribute to improvements in road safety, human behaviour remains the biggest contributory factor in collisions. As such, a key theme that came from the review was the importance of the activity that is carried out in educating, engaging and communicating with all road users when working towards improving road safety outcomes.

The review made eight recommendations to further support the activity that is currently carried out in improving road safety in Nottinghamshire. These included recommendations around:

- how targeted speed awareness training could be delivered more widely.
- increasing the profile of and expanding the reach of the activity that is carried out through social media in raising awareness around road safety issues with residents.
- how Via East Midlands can best work with all elected members to identify further opportunities for community engagement and the delivery of road safety education in their local communities.

The recommendations from the review were approved at the March meeting of Place Select Committee before being considered at the June 2026 meeting of Cabinet where all of the recommendations from the review were accepted.

During 2026/267 Place Select Committee will be receiving a progress report on how the review recommendations are being implemented in supporting the delivery of road safety activity across Nottinghamshire.

Residents' Parking Schemes

In 2024, the Place Select Committee carried out a task and finish review to consider a range of possible amendments around the processes that supported the planning and implementation of residents' parking schemes. The review recommended several improvements to how residents' parking schemes were delivered, including clearer guidance on the Council's website, better communication about permit fees, and around exploring ways to speed up the implementation process. The recommendations from the review were accepted by Cabinet in November 2024.

At the December meeting of Place Select Committee, members received a report that provided an update on the delivery of the recommendations where members were pleased to learn that all of the recommendations from the review had been fully implemented.

Highways

In December, the Place Select Committee received a report setting out the findings and recommendations of a Cabinet Working Group established to review how highway maintenance services in Nottinghamshire could be delivered as effectively and efficiently as possible.

In May, the Committee subsequently examined the overall performance of the highways management system. This detailed scrutiny provided members with the opportunity to explore, challenge and assess the effectiveness of the Council's approach to maintaining and improving Nottinghamshire's road network, as well as the outcomes being achieved.

The Place Select Committee will continue to receive updates throughout 2026/27, enabling members to monitor progress, scrutinise ongoing activity and assess the impact of work undertaken to maintain and further improve Nottinghamshire's highways network.

Pathways to employment

Employment and Skills Framework

Our Council Plan sets out a bold and ambitious vision for Nottinghamshire and sets out the aim for more people to be in good, stable, local jobs, and with those that are not in work being able to access clear and practical pathways to employment. The Employment and Skills Framework's vision is to "to have inspired and ambitious people prepared for the world of work; Skilled people working in thriving businesses that provide sustainable employment opportunities and enables individuals to reach their full potential to meet the needs of local businesses now and in the future".

After providing feedback in advance of its approval and adoption in 2024, during 2025/26 Place Select Committee members received a progress update on how the Employment and Skills Framework was being implemented and on how it was meeting its objectives.

Budget scrutiny

Budget development and budget monitoring

Overview and scrutiny is an integral part of the council's governance and decision-making structure, contributing to the council's budgetary and policy making function as well enabling members to hold the executive to account.

In November 2025, Overview Committee received a report that provided an update on the current budget position for 2025/26 and the processes for developing the budget for 2026/27.

In January 2026, Overview Committee carried out detailed scrutiny of the Council's budget position ahead of the formal budget and council tax setting by Council in February. At this meeting members had the opportunity to highlight specific areas for consideration by Cabinet as part of the budget setting process.

At this meeting members examined how:

- all the risks that could potentially impact on the delivery of the budget had been fully understood and mitigated for.
- robust processes were in place to implement and monitor the required transformational activity that would enable the delivery of both the current, as well as of future budgets.
- the Council had good levels of financial reserves and how these were being managed effectively.
- the risks and the related assumptions had been used to inform the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

- resources were being allocated to enable both the delivery of transformational activity and the preparations for local government reorganisation.
- plans were in place to address both the current and forecast deficits in the High Needs Block of the education budget.
- the proposed Budget would support the delivery of the objectives as detailed in Our Council Plan.

Throughout the year, Overview Committee also considered Budget Monitoring reports which have enabled members to examine how the 2025/26 Budget was being delivered.

During 2026/27 Overview Committee will continue its important role of contributing to the development of the Council's budget to ensure that future budgets are robust, sustainable, and support the delivery of high-quality services to Nottinghamshire residents.

Adult Social Care and Children and Families Performance

The Adult Social Care and Health and Children and Families Select Committees receive regular reports that detail each department's performance and key risks, as well as the current financial position against their budgets. In their consideration of these reports, members have been able to ask questions around specific areas of service delivery that were not achieving the expected levels of performance and to gain assurance around the activities that were in place to improve performance. These discussions have also provided the opportunity for members to identify areas of performance and service delivery that would benefit from more detailed scrutiny activity.

Place Performance

In order to further strengthen the scrutiny activity carried out by Place Select Committee, during 2025/26 the committee has started receiving twice-yearly reports detailing key areas of performance across Place department services.

Call-in

Call-in is an important mechanism for Councillors to intervene when they feel that a decision being made by the Executive needs to be revisited due to a perceived procedural error. During 2025/26 there were no call-ins.

The year ahead

Overview and scrutiny is an integral part of the Council's governance and decision-making structure, contributing to the Council's budgetary and policy making function as well as holding the executive to account. This report has provided an opportunity to reflect on the experiences of the last year and to recognise the challenges and opportunities that are ahead.

The next few years will continue to be challenging for the Council, operating as it does in an environment of diminishing resources and increasing demand for services, alongside the changes coming as a result of Local Government Reorganisation. During these changing times, it is more important than ever that scrutiny focuses on activity where it can support the Council to make the best use of available resources and in providing constructive challenge throughout this period of significant change.

As part of the further development of scrutiny at the Council, committee work programmes will continue to be focused and directed towards the key issues that face the Council and Nottinghamshire residents.

Throughout 2026/27

the Overview Committee will:

- continue to review how activity across the Council is delivering on the ambitions of Our Council Plan.
- be involved in the development of the Council's budget for 2027/28 as well as carrying out detailed scrutiny of the Council's budget proposals ahead of the formal budget and Council Tax setting by Council in February 2027.
- look at how the Council is preparing for Local Government Reorganisation whilst also delivering transformational activity.
- examine how the delivery of Public Health activity is working to improve outcomes for residents.

the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee will:

- be focussed on the activities that support the continued delivery and development of high-quality adult care services.
- examine how the Council is supporting unpaid carers across Nottinghamshire.

the Children and Families Select Committee will:

- be focussed on the activities that support families and that provide children and young people with the best start in life.
- scrutinise how the Council's SEND Reform Plan, to improve support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, is being implemented.

the Place Select Committee will:

- be focused on the activities that will make Nottinghamshire cleaner, greener and that will provide good quality roads and transport infrastructure.
- examine how the Local Communities Fund is being implemented and is supporting investment in local people, projects and organisations, helping communities thrive.

Issues scrutinised by each committee during 2025/26

Overview Committee

- Budget Monitoring and Budget Framework
- Budget 2026/27 Development
- Our Council Plan and the development of the Annual Delivery Plan
- Improving healthy female life expectancy in Nottinghamshire
- Local Government Reorganisation
- Public Health Performance and Public Health Outcomes
- Domestic Abuse Strategy
- Thriving Communities Programme
- Use of Artificial Intelligence at the Council
- Cabinet Working Group review - The Council's financial management, procurement and contract management arrangements – Outcomes
- Promotion of healthy lifestyles and activity around reducing obesity
- Blue Badge applications and processing – Progress report
- Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention Strategy 2024 – 29
- Healthy Families Programme

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee

- Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2024/25
- Joint Carers Strategy
- Occupational Therapy
- Adult Social Care Performance
- The Big Conversation
- Day Opportunities Strategy
- Care Quality and Assurance
- Technology enabled care
- Housing and Supported Accommodation
- Progress and implementation of Prevention approach

Children and Families Select Committee

- Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership – Progress Report on Priorities and Annual Report 2024/25
- Outcomes and Experiences of Children and Young People with SEND
- Children and Families Department Performance
- Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan
- School attendance and young people not in education, employment or training
- Implementation and impact of Family Hubs
- Families First Partnership Programme & Children's Social Care Reform
- Delivery of the Virtual School
- Small Schools Sustainability Strategy
- Fostering recruitment and retention
- Kinship Care

Place Select Committee

- Flooding and Section 19 Reports
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Place Department Performance
- Waste and Recycling
- Highways
- Safer Nottinghamshire Board - Nottinghamshire Community Safety Agreement
- Road Safety
- Emergency Planning
- Country Parks
- SEND Transport

Scrutiny Minutes

Overview Committee

[Thursday 4 September 2025](#)
[Thursday 5 November 2025](#)
[Thursday 27 November 2025](#)
[Thursday 15 January 2026](#)
[Thursday 12 March 2026](#)
[Thursday 7 May 2026](#)
[Thursday 2 July 2026](#)

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee

[Thursday 11 September 2025](#)
[Wednesday 17 December 2025](#)
[Wednesday 18 March 2026](#)
[Wednesday 3 June 2026](#)

Children and Families Select Committee

[Monday 13 October 2025](#)
[Monday 1 December 2025](#)
[Monday 16 March 2026](#)
[Monday 13 July 2026](#)

Place Select Committee

[Wednesday 10 September 2025](#)
[Monday 8 December 2025](#)
[Wednesday 25 March 2026](#)
[Wednesday 20 May 2026](#)