

## **COMMUNITIES STRATEGY - A FRAMEWORK FOR INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. This framework sets out how the Communities team will support the Council's ambition to put local people at the heart of everything it does, and to enable the growth of vibrant and supportive communities.
2. Nottinghamshire has a large and diverse community and voluntary sector which occupies an important position between policy development, service provision and everyday life. Nottinghamshire continues to face unprecedented financial challenges for public services. The way in which issues such as budget reductions, rising costs and increased demand for services are addressed, requires transformational change.
3. Issues including Nottinghamshire's size and rurality, an ageing population and reducing budgets, means there are many services that the Council has traditionally provided that are no longer available, or need to be delivered in a different way. The Council therefore has an important role in working in partnership to help identify and manage risk, by developing an increased focus on prevention and early intervention. The role of local government in supporting communities to be stronger, more resilient and cohesive is critical. Apart from deploying staff resource to achieve this, the Authority also has a long history of providing financial support.
4. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave a statutory responsibility to local authorities such as The County Council, the police, and other partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. Anti-social behaviour (ASB), substance misuse, and reducing reoffending were subsequently added to the remit. These responsible authorities were brought together when Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were established. Since 2007, for two tier authorities such as Nottinghamshire, there has been an additional requirement to have a Community Safety Agreement.
5. The introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in 2011 brought in a requirement for the PCC to have regard to the priorities of the CSP partner authorities, and for those authorities to have regard to the police and crime objectives, as set out in the Police and Crime Plan. It also brought with it a mutual duty for the PCC and the responsible authorities to act in co-operation in exercising their respective functions.

6. The legislation that established the requirement for CSP's, also made it a requirement for a county-level group to be established. In Nottinghamshire, this group is the Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB), chaired by the County Council's Chief Executive.

## **THE COMMUNITIES TEAM**

7. Established in April 2018, the team brought together the Council's community and voluntary sector work, and its community safety responsibilities, thereby realigning the capacity to deliver its ambitions for supporting communities. The combined function has specialist and flexible resource to support the delivery of the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS), its responsibility for the facilitation of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board, and delivering the outcomes required by the Council for supporting communities.
8. The Team is made is comprised of the following posts:

Team Manager	<b>1</b>
Programme Manager (LIS, SNB)	<b>2</b>
SNB Project Manager	<b>1</b>
Programme Officer	<b>5</b>
Neighbourhood Officer	<b>3</b>
Business Support	<b>2</b>
Apprentice	<b>1</b>

9. As part the Trading Standards and Communities Service, the team is developing new approaches to deliver a significant contribution to making communities stronger, vibrant and more resilient.

10. The remit of the team is extremely broad, the work complex, and the demand is greater than available resource. Therefore, careful prioritisation is paramount to maximise the returns for our communities while keeping within available resource. This inevitably means that there will be a number of things the Team is simply unable to do. This strategy sets out what the Communities Team priorities will be.

## **DRIVERS OF THE STRATEGY**

11. The Team has significant roles to play in tackling the challenges facing our communities. This requires innovative ways of thinking, new approaches to problem solving, and more effective ways of partnership working and influencing stakeholders to maximise total resource available to achieve better outcomes.

12. The drivers for this approach are built around the Council Plan '*Your Nottinghamshire, Your Future*', and the Place Department Strategy. Working with a range of internal and external partners, the team has expertise in helping communities and individuals. The team will drive this approach to deliver improved contributions to the Place Departments four key commissioning programmes:

- Investing in place and community
- Investing in opportunity areas
- Investing in economic and social regeneration
- Investing in skills and aspiration

13. This Communities Strategy provides a framework for more detailed plans and activities, for example the Local Improvement Scheme Strategy, which will contribute to supporting communities to be strong and resilient.

14. The team will support people and communities to help themselves – many communities within Nottinghamshire have vibrant groups and active volunteers, who work innovatively and collectively to add to the richness of local life and to help more people who need additional help and support.

15. The Local Improvement Scheme is one key programme where the Authority is clearly supporting communities to provide the range of services and activities that are important and relied upon. The team will also support and promote the ambitions of communities to do even more, such as through upskilling themselves.

16. By more effectively working in partnership to protect communities from crime and anti-social behaviour, people can be more confident about their safety. The team will bring about innovative ways of thinking and interventions to support communities. The community safety approach consists of delivery at both the primary and secondary prevention levels. In order to prevent crime and antisocial behaviour occurring, the team will work with our partners and local communities to help people to help themselves and each other.
17. Where issues do occur, we will adopt a problem-solving approach, with our partners, to tackling the underlying causes to prevent escalation. We will work with key voluntary and community sector organisations, and local residents, to provide a universal offer across Nottinghamshire. Underpinning this approach is the recognition that to be able to fully understand and respond in partnership to the problems that affect our communities, it is necessary to identify and address the underlying causes.
18. Many Nottinghamshire residents play an active part in their communities, for example by volunteering, joining 'Friends of' groups, coaching sports, serving as school governors, and serving on parish councils. The team will encourage more people to become active citizens, taking responsibility for their own neighbourhoods and communities, supporting each other and helping make Nottinghamshire the welcoming, friendly place it is to live.
19. As well as empowering communities, the team also take enforcement action where required, tackling in particular serious and organised crime groups involved in scams and frauds in order to protect the most vulnerable in our communities. We will mobilise our services and influence to drive and build civic pride.
20. In the next 2 years we will have:
  - Built on our strong history of working with communities to support positive change;
  - Used our influence to help protect communities from crime and anti-social behaviour, so people can be more confident about their safety;
  - Continued to fund and support local improvement schemes across the county, helping to make Nottinghamshire a great place to live, work and relax; and
  - Sought out opportunities to contribute to securing the best service for our residents.



*“The team will drive this approach to deliver improved contributions to the Place Departments four key commissioning programmes”*

## COMMUNITIES PRIORITIES, ACTIVITIES & WORKSTREAMS 2019 - 21

Council Plan Priority/Place Commissioning Programme	Activity	Work stream	Success Measures
<p><i>Helping people to help themselves</i></p> <p><i>Investing in place &amp; community</i></p>	<p><b>Deliver the Local Improvement Scheme</b></p>	<p>Manage the Councils three-year funding programme</p> <p>Monitor and review revenue funding commitments</p> <p>Deliver an annual capital funding application scheme</p> <p>Monitor and review annual capital funding commitments</p> <p>Deliver an annual talented athletes' scheme</p>	<p>Increased range of opportunities from which local communities including parish councils can build local improvements as a result of County Council investment</p> <p>Number of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nottinghamshire residents benefitting from the Local Improvement Scheme per year.</li> <li>• Talented athletes competing at national and international level benefitting from the Local Improvement Scheme per year.</li> <li>• Volunteers per year contributing to the delivery of services and activities receiving support from the Local Improvement Scheme per year.</li> <li>• Volunteer hours per year contributing to the delivery of services or activities receiving support from the local improvement scheme.</li> <li>• Volunteer hours per year supporting local improvement schemes and the economic value of volunteers' time contributing to community health and well-being.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Helping people to help themselves</i></p> <p><i>Promoting healthier lifestyle choices</i></p> <p><i>Investing in social and economic regeneration</i></p> <p><i>Investing in skills and aspiration</i></p>	<p><b>Build community capacity</b></p>	<p>Provide packages of tailored information, advice and support to groups to improve services / activities</p>	<p>Number of Community Groups who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have the confidence and support to review their governance arrangements and make improvements to ensure that they are compliant with relevant legislation, regulation and operating in line with current best practice</li> <li>• are better equipped to support and develop volunteers</li> <li>• are provided with information about possible funding opportunities</li> <li>• are provided with relevant information about training opportunities for voluntary staff and volunteers</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are provided with information about possible networking opportunities (within and outside of the Council), and are encouraged to share and learn from each other</li> <li>can make better use of technology.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Helping people to help themselves</i></p> <p><i>Investing in place &amp; community</i></p> <p><i>Investing in skills and aspiration</i></p>	<p><b>Increased community led development through promoting a community organising model and developing the Age Friendly Nottinghamshire approach</b></p>	<p>Deliver community organising training across 4 areas, and to workforce</p> <p>Establish good neighbourhood and befriending schemes</p>	<p>Effective collaboration with public health outcomes</p> <p>Greater capacity in local communities developed by supporting them to find day to day solutions for local challenges</p> <p>Promote community cohesion by addressing loneliness, isolation, vulnerability and enhancing neighbourliness</p> <p>Increased capacity built in communities</p> <p>Community assets promoted</p> <p>Reduced isolation</p> <p>Increased decision making in communities</p> <p>Social responsibility and activation developed by drawing on the best practice principles of volunteering, community organising and social prescribing.</p> <p>Community organising and social action training offer for employees and communities – the aim will be to upskill workforce development and build community capacity</p>
<p><i>Helping people to help themselves</i></p> <p><i>Promoting healthier lifestyle choice</i></p>	<p><b>Working closely with stakeholders and partners to engage communities and enable local people to feel</b></p>	<p>Facilitation of the council's armed forces covenant.</p> <p>Co-ordination of pilot project in partnership with Nottingham Forest</p>	<p>Communities support each other through volunteering and involvement in local organisations</p> <p>(Defence) Employee Recognition Scheme Gold Award achieved</p> <p>A Covenant Forum that meets at least twice a year.</p> <p>Elected Member champion appropriately supported.</p>

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<i>Investing in place &amp; community</i>	<b>more in control of the work taking to improve their communities</b>	Football Community Charity	<p>Officer point of contact communicated</p> <p>Number of events/activities supported to promote the social, economic and healthy wellbeing of veterans and their families</p> <p>Number of young people encouraged to compete in sporting activities</p>
<p><i>Protecting communities from crime and anti-social behaviour so people can be more confident about their safety</i></p> <p><i>Investing in place &amp; community</i></p>	<b>Development of problem-solving structures with communities supported by effective integrated working and information sharing to reduce crime in key neighbourhoods.</b>	<p>Facilitation of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and its work</p> <p>Management of Police &amp; Crime Commissioners Initiatives Fund</p> <p>Maximise the reach and use of ECINs</p> <p>Targeting activity that promotes a safe culture, addresses vulnerability, promotes early intervention, prevention and community resilience:</p> <p>Tackling hate crime by coordinating the Council's approach</p> <p>Work with to identify community concerns and co-ordinate the Councils response to those issues/areas</p>	<p>The delivery of shared priorities and an effective community safety agreement</p> <p>Community Safety Partnerships adequately supported to deliver local community safety strategies</p> <p>Effective performance management arrangements in place for SNB</p> <p>Improved confidence in local communities through effective engagement</p> <p>Communities feel part of the solution and that they have a key role in problem solving</p> <p>Partners work effectively together to support communities to be safe and resilient</p> <p>Appropriate information sharing across partner agencies is effectively promoted through tools such ECINs</p> <p>Number of tailored interventions to protect vulnerable residents</p> <p>People live in communities which support each other through volunteering and involvement in local organisations</p> <p>Greater capacity in local communities developed by supporting them to find day to day solutions for local challenges.</p> <p>Improved community cohesion by addressing loneliness, isolation, vulnerability and enhancing neighbourliness.</p>



Council Plan Priority/Place Commissioning Programme	Activity	Work stream	Success Measures
		<p>which have the biggest impact Contributing to the reduction of rural crime</p> <p>Contribute to the management of illegal encampments on Council property</p> <p>Working with and influencing our residents to build strong and cohesive communities that stigmatise harmful behaviours including knife carrying.</p> <p>Co-ordinating the Council's approach to Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking</p> <p>Co-ordinating the Council's responsibility for 'PREVENT'</p>	<p>People feel safer (New question OPCC survey) at: (a) home, (b) work, (c) travelling and (d) online</p> <p>Residents feel that people from different backgrounds get along well with each other Residents feel there is a strong sense of belong and community where they live</p> <p>Improved awareness of the impact of rural crime in partnership with parish and town councils, Nottswatch and good neighbour schemes</p> <p>An agreed countywide illegal encampment protocol</p> <p>An annual statement which reiterates the Councils commitment to understanding modern slavery risks; and ensuring that there is no modern slavery in its own business and supply chains.</p>
<b><i>Protecting communities from crime and anti-social behaviour so people can be</i></b>	<b><i>Work with our communities in those areas where the nature and prevalence</i></b>	Act as a link for the Council with key partners on community safety matters by	<p>Joint working with neighbourhood policing and community safety partnerships to bring about effective responses to issues raised</p> <p>Resilient and cohesive communities built and supported to help people help each other</p>

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<p><i>more confident about their safety</i></p> <p><i>Investing in place &amp; community</i></p>	<p><b>of crime occurrences are consistently having more impact</b></p>	<p>Regular liaison with neighbourhood police inspectors Involvement in CSP's</p> <p>Joint working with NottsWatch</p>	
<p><i>Protecting communities from crime and anti-social behaviour so people can be more confident about their safety</i></p> <p><i>Investing in place &amp; community</i></p>	<p><b>Work with key internal and external stakeholders to improve community cohesion</b></p>	<p>Develop approaches that establish and facilitates new ways of working for dealing with complex issues for vulnerability including:</p> <p>Gypsy, Roma and Travellers liaison</p> <p>Homelessness</p> <p>Migrants and Asylum Seekers</p> <p>People with learning disabilities</p> <p>Work with partners to manage junction 27 issues</p>	<p>Engaged communities through a good neighbour focus</p> <p>Joint approaches with community and voluntary organisations developing new ways of working</p> <p>Effective initiatives developed to support the most disadvantaged groups is Society</p>