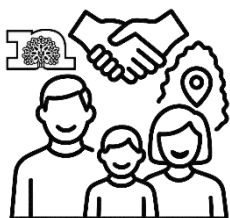


Our Council Plan 2025-2029



This easy read document explains our plan to create stronger families, thriving communities and a connected county.

Contents

This document has several sections:



- [Welcome \(introduction from the council leader, Cllr Mick Barton\)](#)
- [Setting the scene](#)
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- [How this plan works](#)
- Our outcomes:
 - [1. Stronger families, caring connections](#)
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 - [3. A connected county, creating opportunity](#)

- [A council that leads, a council that listens](#)
- [Nottinghamshire Today](#)
- [Next steps](#)

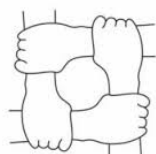
Welcome to Our Council Plan 2025-2029



The leader of Nottinghamshire County Council, Cllr Mick Barton, wrote this introduction to Our Council Plan:

We want Nottinghamshire to be a great place to live.

Our goal is to have



- strong families
- happy communities and
- good connections across the county.

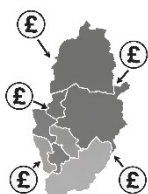


We are proud of our history and excited about the future.

How will we do this?



We will work with local people, businesses, and other organisations.



We will make the most of new opportunities and bring more investment to Nottinghamshire.



We will improve local services so they are good quality, good value, and meet people's needs.

Our Top Priorities for the Next 4 Years:

- **Find more carers and adopters**

Support people who care for children, so more children can live in loving family homes.





- **Better roads and travel**

Work with the East Midlands Combined County Authority to make roads safer and easier to use.



- **Support children in education**

Make sure all children can take part in learning and feel included at school.



- **Help in local communities**

Work with local groups so people can get support close to home.



- **Keep people safe**

Work with the police to stop fraud and reduce unsafe or illegal products.



- **Independent living**

Help people, especially those who need care, to live in a home of their own.



- **More jobs**

Give clear and simple ways for people to find good, secure local jobs.



- **Listen to communities**

Involve local people in decisions that affect them.



This plan is about today and tomorrow.



Together, we will make Nottinghamshire the best it can be for everyone who lives here.

Setting the scene

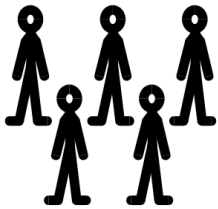
Who we are



Nottinghamshire County Council provides more than 400 services.



These services help people who live, work, study, or visit Nottinghamshire.



We work as one team to make sure services are there when people need them.

Some services are for everyone, like:



- Libraries



- Country parks



- School admissions

Other services are more specialist, like:



- Helping children who need protection



- Supporting adults to live independently after illness

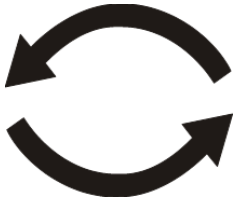


We also work with the 7 local district and borough Councils and other partners.



You can [find more information about us on our website](#).

Changes to local government



Local government is changing. This gives us a chance to do things better.

Here are the main changes:

1. **East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA)**



The East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) started in March 2024, serving:



- Nottinghamshire County



- Nottingham City



- Derbyshire County



- Derby City



EMCCA makes big decisions about transport, housing, and energy.



From 2026, some transport responsibilities will move from the county council to EMCCA.



We will still have a strong voice to make sure decisions help local people and businesses.

2. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)



At the moment, there are two levels of local government in the county:



- Nottinghamshire County Council
- 7 District and Borough Councils



By April 2028, this will likely change to two new councils called “unitary councils”.



These councils will provide all services. New councillors will be elected under this system.

3. Funding challenges



Money for local services is still a challenge.



Nottinghamshire County Council is in a better position than many other councils because of careful planning.



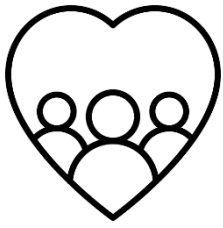
Costs are rising and demand for services is growing.



We will keep finding ways to save money and give good value for taxpayers.



Our goal is to protect and improve services and keep the Council strong for the future.



We know these changes are important. We will keep residents at the heart of everything we do.

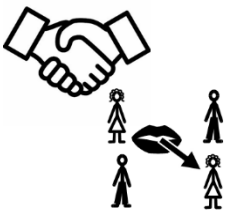
Our Approach



We are changing how we work to better serve the people of Nottinghamshire.

Here is what that means:

Your voice counts



- We will involve people in decisions that affect them.



- We will design services with input from those who use them.



- We will listen carefully and connect with communities.

Teamwork matters



- We will work closely with residents and partners across Nottinghamshire.



- This will help us get the best results for local people and communities.

Prevention first

- We will focus on things that support good health and wellbeing, like:



- Education



- Jobs



- Housing



- Strong communities



- We will make sure people get help early to stop problems from getting worse.

Being open and honest



- We will be clear about what is going well and what needs improving.



- We will test new ideas, learn from them, and keep getting better.

Keeping it practical



- We will focus on what really makes a difference in people's lives.



- We will make sure results can be seen and measured.

Making the most of resources



- We will spend money wisely.



- We will cut unnecessary rules.



- We will find smarter ways to work and still deliver good quality services.

How this Plan works



Our Council Plan is based on these principles.

It will guide how the Council works and makes decisions in the future.



The Plan is built around **3 key outcomes** we want for Nottinghamshire's people and communities.

For each outcome, the Plan explains:



- **Success Means:** How we will know our actions have worked.



- **Ambitions:** The main themes for each outcome.



- **Priorities:** Specific actions linked to these ambitions.

1. Stronger Families, Caring Connections



We believe everyone should get the best start in life.



All children should have a good education and live in a loving family home.



Family and close connections help us feel cared for and supported.



When families have a tough time, we will do what we can to help.



We will also support people who care for loved ones and celebrate the important work of carers across Nottinghamshire.



Success means:



- More children are ready for school and have good early development.



- Fewer children are suspended or excluded from school, especially those with extra needs.



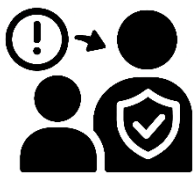
- More young people are in education, training, or work, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).



- Fewer children need a child protection plan to keep them safe.

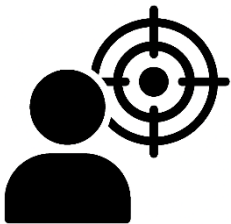


- More carers are happy with the support they and their loved ones receive.



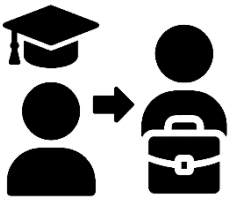
- More safeguarding concerns are reduced or removed after contacting adult social care.

Our focus



- The best start in life
- No child left behind
- Safe and supported
- Celebrating our carers

We will...



The best start in life:

- Help parents and carers so more children can access early education and childcare.
- Work with partners to improve maternal health and wellbeing and encourage family physical activity.
- Support education providers so everyone gets a good education and can move on to training or work.
- Focus on the first 1,001 days of a child's life, including helping families to be smoke-free.

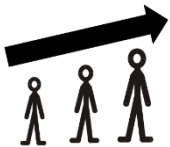
No child left behind:



- Work with schools to promote inclusion and reduce poor attendance.



- Improve support for children and young people with SEND through early help and planning.



- Make moving from childhood to adulthood better for young people with SEND and protected characteristics.

Safe and supported:



- Improve early help and social work services so children can thrive and stay safe at home.



- Help people care for loved ones as they get older or need extra support.



- Support older adults, including those with dementia, to live safely and free from abuse.



- Use our role as a partner and employer to create opportunities for people to age well and enjoy life.

Celebrating our carers:



- Make sure carers, including young carers, have support and social contact.



- Honour foster carers, kinship carers, and adoptive parents so they feel valued and supported.

2. Rooted in Communities, Thriving Together



We believe having a home and feeling part of your community helps people stay healthy, safe, and independent.



We want friends, neighbours, and local groups to look out for each other and help when someone needs it.



By giving people the right help, at the right time, close to home, we can stop problems from getting worse.



This means fewer expensive services and healthier, happier lives for everyone.



Success means



- People live longer, healthier lives, and health gaps across the County get smaller.



- People find it easy to get information about Adult Social Care services.



- More adults who get short-term help after illness or a stay in hospital remain independent and don't need ongoing support.



- Fewer adults aged 18 to 64 need to move into care homes for long-term support.



- More children in our care live in fostering or kinship care.

Our focus

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



We will...

Healthier, happier lives:



- Work with partners to reduce health gaps so everyone can live longer and healthier lives.



- Support mental and emotional wellbeing by reducing loneliness and isolation.



- Encourage staff to use everyday conversations to help people improve health and wellbeing.



- Protect public health, for example by improving vaccination uptake.



- Work with partners to improve dental health by making sure everyone has access to fluoridated water.

Looking out for each other:



- Work with local voluntary and community groups to provide support close to home.



- Make sure people can get early advice and information when they need it.



- Use technology to help people stay independent and healthy at home.

Resilient communities:



- Reduce fraud and remove unsafe products from the market.



- Support communities during floods and other emergencies.



- Work with safety partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

A place to call home



- Encourage more people to foster or adopt so children can live in family homes.



- Provide more housing with support for young adults, care leavers, domestic abuse survivors, and people with complex needs.



- Work with partners to provide housing for older people and people with disabilities.



- Reduce homelessness and help people live in warm, affordable homes.

3. A Connected County, Creating Opportunity



We want Nottinghamshire to be strong and successful.



We want investment and development that really benefits local people.

This means:



- Better transport and digital connections



- Roads in good condition



- Protecting our local environment



- More people in good, secure jobs



- Clear pathways to employment for those not in work



- An economy that works for everyone



Success means



- Fewer roads need repairs.



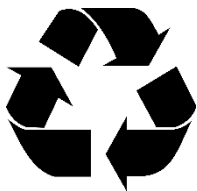
- More people have access to fast broadband and digital services.



- More working-age people are in jobs.



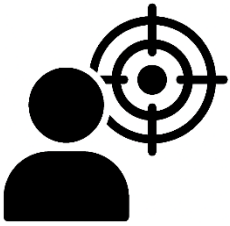
- More businesses stay open and grow, creating good, stable jobs.



- More household waste is reused, recycled, or composted.

Our focus:

- Better connected
- Pathways to employment
- An economy for everyone
- A vibrant local environment



We will...

Better connected:



- Work with EMCCA to fix and maintain roads properly the first time.



- Support EMCCA to improve buses, trains, and travel options, especially in rural areas.



- Give people more mobile and broadband options for superfast digital connectivity.

Pathways to employment:



- Make pathways to good jobs, like apprenticeships, easy to access and practical.

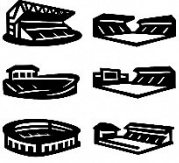


- Help people find and keep good jobs, including carers and people with health issues or disabilities.

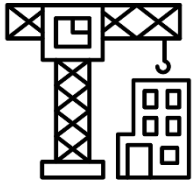


- Improve key job markets, like Adult Social Care, to make them more stable and high quality.

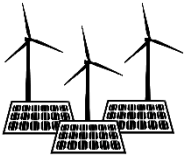
An economy for everyone:



- Attract more visitors to Nottinghamshire, including heritage and sports venues.



- Shape big projects like housing, transport, and energy so they meet local needs.



- Work with EMCCA to increase investment and support clean energy and green technologies.



- Help local businesses and suppliers grow and succeed.

A vibrant local environment:



- Support country parks and libraries as important community spaces.



- Protect and improve Nottinghamshire's natural areas and heritage.



- Make recycling easier and more consistent across the County.

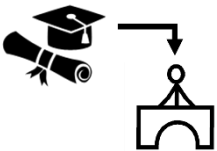
A Council That Leads, A Council That Listens



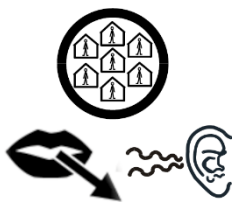
We want Nottinghamshire County Council to work well and be efficient.



We will work together as **One Council**, manage money carefully, and make the best use of what we have.



We will build a skilled workforce and use new opportunities from local and national changes.



We will improve how we deliver services and listen to local communities, so people can be involved in decisions that matter.



Success means



- The Council can set a balanced budget every year.



- Independent checks show we are doing well.



- More people feel they can influence local decisions.



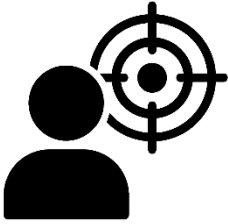
- More employees choose to stay working for the Council.



- Residents are more satisfied with the Council.

What we will focus on

- Efficient and effective
- A skilled, committed workforce
- A forward-looking Council
- Being community-led



Efficient and effective



- Work efficiently and make the best use of resources.



- Give good value for money and stay within budget.



- Use council buildings and assets wisely, cutting energy, water, and waste costs.



- Use data and technology to improve services and understand local needs.

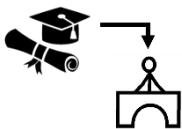
A skilled, committed workforce



- Reduce the need for agency workers and keep a consistent workforce.



- Create a great work environment so people want to work here.

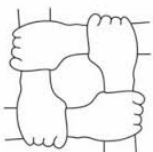


- Offer training and development for staff and leaders.

A forward-looking Council



- Work with partners to make local government reorganisation positive for everyone.



- Work with schools, health, and the Police to improve local services.



- Review how the Council works and create a new model for the future.

Being community-led



- Listen to local people and use their ideas to shape plans and services.

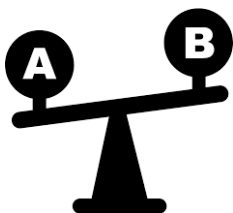


- Help people get involved and influence decisions

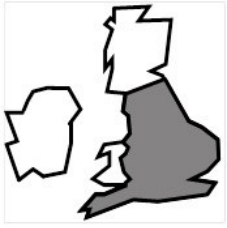
Nottinghamshire Today



To make this Plan, we looked at what life is like for people and communities in Nottinghamshire.

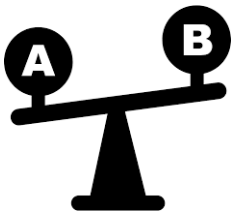


We have compared life here with life in other areas of the UK.



In this section, when we say “**similar authorities**”, we mean other county councils in England.

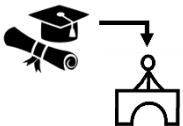
Stronger Families, Caring Connections



Compared to similar authorities, Nottinghamshire has:



- **More** 3 and 4 year olds taking up free early education, but **fewer** children reach a good level of development by age 5.



- **More** young people (16–17) in education, work, or training, but **fewer** young people with special educational needs stay in education or work.

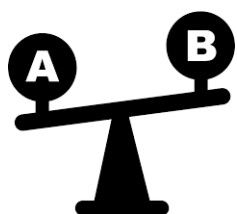


- A **similar** number of children with more than one Child Protection Plan, and **fewer** children whose plans last over two years.



- A **similar** level of satisfaction for people using Adult Social Care, but **fewer** carers get support from carers' groups or have someone to talk to.

Rooted in Communities, Thriving Together



Compared to similar authorities, Nottinghamshire has:



- **More** NHS health checks for those eligible, but people are expected to live **fewer years in good health**.



- **More** children in care with stable placements, but **fewer** children in care living in foster homes.



- **Fewer** older adults (65+) in residential or nursing care, but **more** young adults (18–64) with long-term care needs living in care homes.

And...

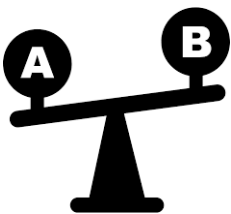


- **6,105 cases** of fraud and cyber-crime reported in Nottinghamshire (including Nottingham City) so far in 2025, worth **£20.4 million**.



- The number of cases has **more than doubled** since last year.

A Connected County, Creating Opportunity



Compared to similar authorities, Nottinghamshire has:



- **More** passenger journeys on local buses and **higher satisfaction** with buses.



- **Fewer** roads needing maintenance and **fewer** people killed or seriously injured on roads.



- **Less** household waste recycled or composted, but **lower** amounts sent to landfill.



- **More** working-age people unemployed and **lower** average weekly pay.

Next Steps

To help us monitor our progress against this Plan:



- We will produce an Annual Delivery Plan each year that sets out what we will do to achieve our ambitions.



- At the end of each year, an Annual Report will also be produced that details our progress against key measures of success.

Links in this document

Nottinghamshire County Council – information about us

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-structure/the-councils-structure

For plain English version of this information, go to:

[The Nottinghamshire Plan: stronger families, thriving communities and a connected county](https://plan.nottinghamshire.gov.uk)

plan.nottinghamshire.gov.uk

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