



Annual Delivery Plan 2025/26 – Quarter 2 Assurance

(Published January 2026)

The [2025/26 Annual Delivery Plan](#) outlined the actions the Council agreed to take in 2025/26, to deliver on the previous Nottinghamshire Plan ambitions and priorities. This report provides members and residents with an update on our progress to date in delivering these actions (up to the end of September 2025).

Summary – For 2025/26, specific quarterly milestones have been identified against each action, to provide in-year assurance of progress and delivery. Of the 48 actions in the current Plan, 63 milestones sit underneath these which relate specifically to quarter 2 (July – September). Of these, **50 (79%) are currently on track for completion, whilst 9 (14%) have been highlighted as experiencing some challenges. 4 (6%) have been highlighted as experiencing significant obstacles to completion.**

For those actions which are experiencing challenges, this generally relates to delays caused by factors such as capacity and resourcing, as well as in-year changes due to the local government reorganisation process or development of new priorities through Our Council Plan, approved in November 2025. Mitigations are in place where possible to continue to make progress at pace, with more detailed narrative provided below for those actions experiencing significant obstacles.

Ambition 1 – Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives: The Council committed to delivering 8 actions to achieve this ambition by April 2026. Of the 12 Q2 milestones against these actions, 10 are on track, whilst 2 are experiencing some challenges.

Ambition 2 – Supporting communities and families: The Council committed to delivering 4 actions by April 2026. Of the 4 Q2 milestones against these actions, 1 is complete, whilst 3 are on track.

Ambition 3 – Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe: The Council committed to delivering 7 actions by April 2026. Of the 10 Q2 milestones against these actions, 3 are complete, 4 are on track, whilst 3 are experiencing some challenges.

Ambition 4 – Building skills that help people get good jobs: The Council committed to delivering 3 actions by April 2026. Of the 4 Q2 milestones against these actions, 1 is complete, whilst 3 are on track.

Ambition 5 – Strengthening businesses and creating more good-quality jobs: The Council committed to delivering 3 actions by April 2026. Of the 4 Q2 milestones against these actions, all 4 are on track.

Ambition 6 – Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit: The Council committed to delivering 3 actions by April 2026. Of the 3 Q2 milestones against these actions, all 3 are on track.

Ambition 7 – Attracting investment in infrastructure, the economy and green growth: The Council committed to delivering 4 actions by April 2026. Of the 4 Q2 milestones against these actions, all 4 are on track.

Ambition 8 – Improving transport and digital connections: The Council committed to delivering 5 actions by April 2026. Of the 5 Q2 milestones against these actions, 1 is complete, 3 are on track, whilst 1 is experiencing some challenges.

Ambition 9 – Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint: The Council committed to delivering 4 actions by April 2026. Of the 8 Q2 milestones against these, 4 are on track, 2 are experiencing some challenges, whilst 2 are experiencing significant obstacles.

- The 2 milestones experiencing significant obstacles refer to work with partners to reduce carbon emissions across the county (action 9.3) – both obstacles reflect approval of the Net Zero Framework

action plan facing delays due to revisions to better reflect a change in emphasis that includes environment sustainability, green growth and how to lead by example using our assets and resources.

Ambition 10 – A forward looking and resilient Council: The Council committed to delivering 7 actions by April 2026. Of the 9 Q2 milestones against these, 5 are complete, 1 is on track, 1 is experiencing some challenges, whilst 2 are experiencing significant obstacles.

- The 2 milestones experiencing significant obstacles refer to delivery of our Buildings and Office Rationalisation Programme (action 10.1) – the relocation of staff from County Hall to Trent Bridge House faces delays due to a change in strategic direction because of local government reorganisation. Similarly, the continued roll out of Service Asset Management Plans (SAMPS) are in a process of change, with a focus on data gathering and delays also due to local government reorganisation.

Delivery Highlights – The below is a high-level summary of activity, which occurred during Q2:

- The Council has successfully mobilised the Healthy Child Programme contract, embedded the Making Every Contact Count approach, whilst sustaining strong performance in maternal and child health indicators. Libraries engagement rose to 1.88 million interactions, surpassing quarterly targets, and cultural services delivered major events, including the Robin Hood Festival, driving visitor growth.
- The Council achieved major milestones, including defining the Development Programme for the county's top 40 sites for future housing and industry, supporting infrastructure and job creation. Digital transformation progressed with the completion of the Digital Connectivity Framework and launch of the Digital Opportunities Network, reducing the digital divide. Business support significantly exceeded targets, delivering 401 advisory hours against a 100-hour goal. Environmental objectives advanced through Cabinet approval of the [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#), and tree planting targets were surpassed under the Greenwood Community Forest plan. Planning performance remained strong, with 94% of applications determined within statutory timescales and £4.16 million secured in developer contributions.
- The Council has maintained robust operational delivery, completing 122 highways schemes and achieving 99.5% compliance for Category 1 defect repairs. Flood management progressed with property-level resilience measures and natural flood management projects, whilst landfill waste diversion reached 98.5%, exceeding its target. Preparations for Simpler Recycling reforms and food waste collections advanced through technical and financial planning.
- The implementation of a new Mental Health Discharge Hub has continued its progress, with the Mental Health Discharge Team now in place and functioning well. A draft Adult Social Care Accommodation Strategy, detailing the Council's needs for Supported Living and Extra Care has been produced, with the pipeline for supported accommodation beginning to deliver new properties and tenants being identified. More people are also accessing Reablement from a hospital setting compared to any previous year.
- The Council has supported schools in setting up in-school special education needs or disabilities (SEND) support hubs, alongside delivery of a new operating model for Education, Health and Care assessments. Coproduction activity to help develop a Homes for Children (Sufficiency) Strategy is complete, with development of the strategy itself underway. Parent and Carer Panels for each district in the county, to ensure families influence service delivery through feedback, evaluation and service design, have been established.

See overleaf for specific stories of difference that have occurred during Quarter 2 (July – September) across departments, for the current financial year.

Stories of Difference

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

Celebrating four years of NottAlone championing local mental health support – September 2025 marked four years since the launch of NottAlone, the dedicated mental health support platform for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Initially designed to support children and young people, NottAlone has evolved into an inclusive, all-ages hub supporting families, carers, professionals and individuals across the city and county, to access local mental health services.

Inspectors find partnership is taking ‘effective action’ to improve SEND services – A recent report found that Nottinghamshire is taking “effective action” to improve services for children and young people with special education needs or disabilities (SEND). Following the prior 2023 inspection, inspectors have found the partnership’s redesigned governance and strategic approach, effective use of data, and new models of working have “helped to increase the proportion of education, health and care (EHC) plans completed within the 20-week statutory timescale”.



Ambition 2 – Supporting communities and families



Council strikes ‘Gold’ once again for its baby services – The Council’s Family Hub service has been accredited at Gold Standard for the second time, under the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) scheme. This means families who choose to breastfeed their babies can be assured of first-class support throughout their infant feeding journey. The scheme also looks at how families are supported with bonding and attachment.

Ofsted applauds “exceptional standard of education and care” at Nottinghamshire school – St Giles in Retford, a school for 200 pupils aged 3 to 18 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), has been praised by Ofsted for its “exceptional standard of education and care” during its most recent inspection. The report describes how “pupils love coming to school each day and cannot wait to start learning” thanks to its “very skilled” expert staff and “positive atmosphere.”

New council deals set to boost school places and bring investment to school facilities in Nottinghamshire – A seven-strong package of county council land and property deals have been given the green light. This has involved making best use of housing developer contributions to release around £1.5 million worth of grant funding, with no cost to the taxpayer. The funding will be invested to improve school facilities and boost school places, including for SEN pupils (Special Educational Needs).

Councillor James Walker-Gurley, the Council's Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management, said: “...it is our duty to make sure this money is being spent in a way which will really benefit local schools, including making sure pupils can learn in a fit-for-purpose environment and increasing school places where possible, as every place counts.”

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



[Proud to Care Awards showcase the best of care in the county](#) – Over 300 people attended Nottinghamshire County Council’s second Proud to Care Awards, which recognise and celebrate people who work in the private care sector across the county. The awards, held in partnership with Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Care Association, are held to celebrate and thank people who work in a wide range of roles across adult social care.

The award ceremony was held at Colwick Hall in Nottingham, and gave finalists, their colleagues, guests and sponsors an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of those who work

in social care, connect with others in similar work environments, and be inspired by moving stories of how care has transformed people’s lives.

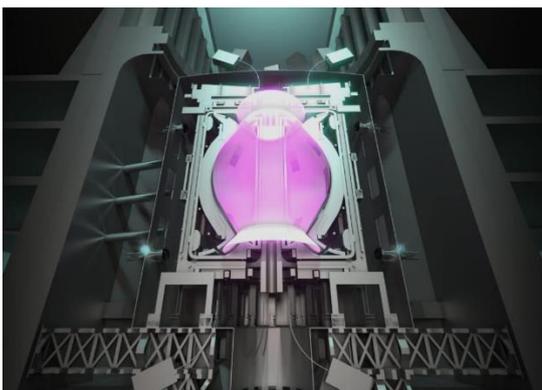
[Celebration for relaunch of young people’s centre in Calverton](#)

Calverton Young People’s Centre has reopened after an extensive refurbishment – creating a safe and welcoming environment for young people in the area. Led by Nottinghamshire County Council and working with Arc Partnership, the space has received a new roof, energy efficient lighting, a modern heat pump heating system, renovated toilets, and refreshing new décor.



Pom Bhogal, Head of Young People’s Service for the Council said: “It’s brilliant to see Calverton’s centre reopen its doors. The refurbishments have made this building an excellent place for the young people in Calverton and the surrounding area and gives them somewhere safe to go and have fun and relax.”

Ambition 4 – Building skills that help people get good jobs



[East Midlands set to be national leader for fusion and clean energy skills](#) – A major step forward has been taken in establishing the East Midlands as a major hub for fusion energy skills, following the appointment of the clean energy consultancy Opergy, to lead the development of a business case for new skills development opportunities to the [STEP Fusion programme](#) at West Burton in Nottinghamshire. The project will focus on assessing future skills demand from the programme and other planned developments in the region, with Nottinghamshire County Council a part of the STEP Fusion Skills Collaborative which developed the commission and

played a critical role in the specification’s evaluation and tendering process.

The STEP Fusion programme itself is expected to create 8,500 highly skilled, full-time jobs across the supply chain, making it vital for Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, and South Yorkshire, with the County Council continuing to play a key role in driving and shaping this work.

Mayor of the East Midlands, Claire Ward said: “Fusion has the potential to transform our region — not just in how we generate power, but in how we create skilled, long-term jobs that people in our region can access. The Skills Collaborative is taking a forward-thinking approach by developing the partnerships and programmes now that will make sure the East Midlands is ready to lead the clean-energy revolution.”

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

Supporting local businesses to thrive and grow – The Council’s Business Support Advisors have continued to offer invaluable support to local Nottinghamshire Businesses. Whether just starting out, looking to expand, or ready to scale up, residents can benefit from free, independent and impartial support from our Growth & Economic Development Team who provide dedicated business support. Recent examples include:

- Supporting a relocated hairdressing salon to expand into a multiple business operation, allowing them to more effectively manage the need to recruit whilst balancing individual business profits.
- Supporting a local furniture retail business to gain successful grant funding that will go towards reducing their carbon footprint, through lower energy usage.
- Helping a local soft play business draft an application for the East Midlands Accelerator, to enable increased business capacity which should in turn increase turnover by up to 30%.
- Providing a local joinery business with guidance on the Business Investment Fund that, through successful grant funding, will allow for the upgrading of vital cutting machinery.
- Helping a safety and workwear business to streamline processes, thereby improving product quality and enabling improved efficiency and profitability.
- Working with a knitwear manufacturer to invest in new industrial flatbed knitting machines, that allow the business to offer new services and garment technology for the first time.

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

Mansfield family hub celebrates £150,000 funding transformation

– Oak Tree family hub in Mansfield has been transformed, following a £150,000 funding investment from the Levelling Up Fund from central government, matched with funding from the county council. Previously known as Oak Tree Children’s Centre, the new site has now been revamped into a welcoming family hub, designed to help better meet the needs of local children age 0-18 years and their families.

The funding has been used to revitalise and improve a new outdoor area that is now more engaging for older children, as well as those under the age of 5. Whilst inside has seen a complete redecoration, a new heating system and new technology including mobile screens, supporting the delivery of educational and informative services.



Councillor Rory Green, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, praised the hubs for the important role they play in communities in Nottinghamshire: “It’s fantastic to see so many families enjoying the wonderfully renovated site here in Mansfield and making the most of the services and activities available to them. The funding has allowed us to expand the services we offer, all under one roof.”

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

Supporting growth across Nottinghamshire – The County Council has provided key insights to help secure funding for future electrical connections, crucial for meeting the growing needs of our communities. This effort is focused on upgrading and expanding the electrical substations that will serve Nottinghamshire over the next 5+ years, with these upgrades essential for powering major new housing developments and job hubs, ensuring they’re ready for future investment.

This work is also part of the broader vision driven by the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA), which is pushing forward with plans to unlock even more growth opportunities across the region.

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One key milestone is the recent announcement of the AI Growth Zone in Cottam, which is expected to bring exciting new developments in the technology sector.

Thanks to these efforts, an additional 80 strategic investment sites from across the East Midlands have now been submitted to the North East Strategic Oversight Group (NESO), boosting our region's ability to attract future investment and development.

Ambition 8 – Improving transport and digital connections



[Nottinghamshire's biggest ever traffic signal upgrade goes live](#) – A landmark £500,000 traffic signal upgrade at the A38/King's Mill Road East junction in Ashfield has been successfully completed. Works were delivered five weeks ahead of schedule, marking a major milestone in the county's infrastructure investment programme. Used by more than 27,000 vehicles daily, the upgrade will improve traffic flow, signal reliability and congestion management.

[All round good news for bus passengers in Mansfield](#) – The



Mansfield All Rounder ticket, a brand-new bus ticket allowing passengers to travel on more than 30 bus services in Mansfield with just one ticket, has launched, with the aim to make travelling by bus simpler for passengers making multiple journeys.

Ambition 9 – Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint



[Pioneering Miner2Major project scoops national award](#) – Miner2Major, a pioneering project which has helped connect former mining communities with historic Sherwood Forest's heritage and nature, has won the coveted Community Engagement Award at the prestigious MJ Achievement Awards 2025. Led by Nottinghamshire County Council and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Miner2Major was a transformative five-year scheme launched in 2019, focused on delivering projects with partners and engaging with local communities to celebrate Sherwood's important habitats, special species and rich heritage.

[New Nottinghamshire community woodland featured in national report](#) – A new community woodland in

Nottinghamshire, which is home to thousands of trees, has been showcased in a national report. More than 87,000 trees have been planted at the Thorney Abbey site, near Southwell, through the Defra-funded Trees for Climate programme and delivered via the Greenwood Community Forest initiative.

The wooded area has been created on 48-hectare land purchased by Greenwood in 2024, with trees planted using contractors, community volunteers and a delegation of agricultural students from Nottingham Trent University's Brackenhurst Campus.



Ambition 10 – A forward looking and resilient Council

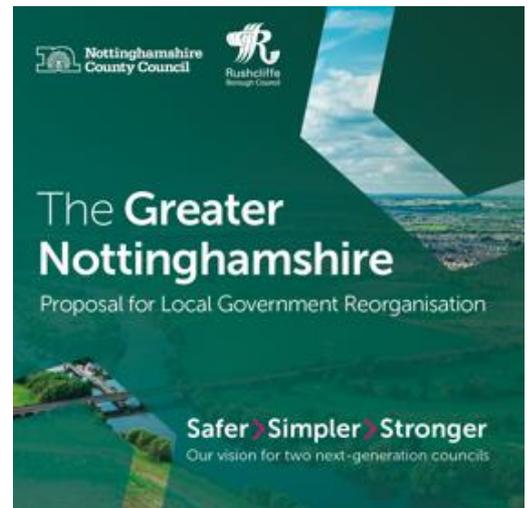


[New partnership serves up a fresh start for Nottinghamshire school meals](#) – Vertas Nottinghamshire Limited, a joint venture between the Council and UK facilities management specialists Vertas, is transforming how over 230 schools, academies, and care homes are served across the county. Launched in September, the partnership was formed to transform cleaning, caretaking, catering, and grounds maintenance services.

To support this, 1,700 members of staff from the County Council have transferred to Vertas which helps unlock future opportunities for local people, creating jobs, apprenticeships and career pathways for residents eager to develop skills within the sector.

[Vision for two new councils for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire](#) – Developed throughout the spring, summer and autumn months, the County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council have formally submitted the [Greater Nottinghamshire Proposal to the UK Government](#), setting out a bold vision for modernising local government and improving services for residents in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

This change is happening because the Government has asked us to reorganise how local government works in Nottinghamshire, with our proposal recommending two new unitary councils that would replace the current two-tier system. Under this plan, one council would bring together Nottingham City, Broxtowe, and Gedling, creating a single authority focused on the urban core and its surrounding communities. The second council would unite the remaining districts of Rushcliffe, Newark and Sherwood, Ashfield, Mansfield and Bassetlaw, ensuring that services are delivered efficiently and reflect the needs of local communities.



Next Steps:

We will publish an Annual Report in 2026 as part of our year-end review, outlining our progress and achievements during 2025/26 and the impact of these on Nottinghamshire's communities. To see the range of achievements we achieved during 2024/25, see [last year's Annual Report](#).