

Nottinghamshire County Council

Executive Summary

2022 to 2023



Healthy

Prosperous

Green



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Introduction from the leader

In November 2021 we launched [The Nottinghamshire Plan](#), which sets out the county council's 10-year vision for a healthy, prosperous and greener future for everyone. The Plan made clear the mechanisms we would use to monitor our progress, including an Annual Report that details what we have achieved in the last year, to meet the needs of Nottinghamshire residents.

Now into the second year of the Plan, we remain committed to improving the quality of life in Nottinghamshire and levelling up chances across the county. Within the last year alone, we've opened new primary schools to ensure a school place for every child, taken steps to support the social care market to improve its quality and sustainability, and delivered a range of activities to ensure a "right first time" approach to our road repairs and highways maintenance.

We want to do everything we can to support our communities and so I am committed to championing Nottinghamshire and listening to and working with our residents and partners, to ensure our county is the best it can be for all of us.

We are always looking to the future and finding ways we can deliver the best for Nottinghamshire's communities, whilst ensuring value for money. You can read more about our plans for 2023/24 in our new [Annual Delivery Plan](#).

However, it is important that we continue to take the time to reflect on the progress we are making towards achieving our ambitions and to celebrate what has gone well during the last 12 months. This document provides a summary of what we have delivered, working together as one council, during 2022-23. For more information you can read the more detailed Annual Report for 2022-23.



Cllr Ben Bradley MP



Achievements and impact

Our achievements for 2022-23 span the full range of ambitions outlined in the Nottinghamshire Plan.



We are a strong and resilient council. We delivered a **balanced budget** for 2022/23, without the need for the maximum allowable Council Tax increase. We remain focused on getting the maximum value for the people and communities of Nottinghamshire for every pound we spend. All councils are the subject of an external audit. In our most recent audit, we received a **positive value for money judgement** from our external auditors. During 2022/23, we have successfully **introduced a new cabinet system of governance**, to improve how we make decisions and to create clearer lines of responsibility and accountability.



We are investing in increasing apprenticeship, graduate development, traineeship and intern opportunities with the council and providing learning, development and support for all colleagues, to improve access to employment for a wider range of people and ensure the council has the skills it needs now and for the future. We're proud that a job with the council is now guaranteed after successful completion of graduate and apprenticeship training.





Our relatively stable financial position, strong governance model and committed workforce, mean we are able to invest more in the longer-term transformation of what and how we deliver for the people and communities of Nottinghamshire. Our corporate and collective commitment to transformation has supported the delivery of many of the key achievements highlighted in this report.



We have worked with partners to bring major investment to Nottinghamshire.

This will create high-quality and sustainable jobs for the people who live here, ensure people have the education, training and skills to enable them to access the opportunities this creates and create a thriving economy. During 2022, we worked with other local authorities and partners in Nottingham City, Derbyshire and Derby City to successfully secure a **devolution deal**. This will attract over £1billion of investment into the region.



We have also worked with partners to bring **STEP Fusion technology** to the county. West Burton in Bassetlaw was selected as the home of the government's ambitious STEP fusion energy programme, underpinning an industry expected to be worth billions to the UK economy. Fusion promises to be a safe, low carbon and sustainable part of the world's energy supply with potential to help sustain net zero in the future. It offers massive opportunities for Nottinghamshire and the wider region over the coming decades, and will bring clean, green energy to the UK in a world first, along with high skilled jobs for local people, and large-scale infrastructure investment.



In the south of Nottinghamshire, work continues to maximise the opportunities offered through **the East Midlands Freeport (EMF)**, the only inland freeport, and the East Midlands Development Corporation, delivering initiatives to drive green economic growth and jobs.



Major events, like the **Tour of Britain, Nottinghamshire Day and the Nottinghamshire County Show**, attract visitors to the county and boost the local economy. In September 2022, the world-famous Tour of Britain returned to the county for the first time in four years, with the race travelling from West Bridgford to Mansfield. The showpiece cycle race generated £4.34m in net visitor expenditure for Nottinghamshire's economy – with an impressive 225,000 fans lining the 186.8km (116m) route. The race will be returning to Nottinghamshire again later this year.





We have continued to improve the road, transport and broadband connections across the county. We know that there are still challenges when it comes to our highways, but our **Highways Improvement Programme** is being delivered. This is seeing us move away from short-term maintenance to roads and has enabled us to publish a longer-term programme of work so people know what is planned in their area and how it will impact them. We have secured **£30m of additional funding to enable us to support improvements to bus services** and to enable us to protect a number of at-risk bus services, highly valued by the communities they serve. During 2022-23, we also successfully trialled **a demand responsive bus service called Nottsbus On Demand.** Feedback has been positive, and we will be rolling this out in other areas of the county. We have also delivered major improvements to the road network, including the successful opening of **Colliery Way, in Gedling.**



We are investing in major development projects, with major sites such as **Top Wighay near Hucknall** including exciting plans for a new energy efficient council office. Alongside this we're considering options for the future use of the iconic County Hall building in West Bridgford – aimed at reducing costs to the taxpayer whilst realising our net zero aspirations. **The Lindhurst development at Berry Hill in Mansfield,** is a £250 million 480-acre site, which will provide new homes and jobs for the area. It is being built on land part-owned by Nottinghamshire County Council and will feature up to **1,700 new homes,** including 170 affordable homes.





We have reduced our greenhouse gas emissions. Between 2019/20 and 2022/23 we have reduced our day-to-day CO2 emissions by 32 per cent by upgrading our street lights for more efficient LED versions, changing how we use our buildings, investing in energy efficiency measures and working in a hybrid way. In addition, thanks to our first class household waste and recycling services, we divert 95 per cent of the domestic waste produced in the county away from landfill.



We have supported people, places and communities, responding to the impacts of cost-of-living increases, and have welcomed families displaced by the Ukraine invasion. During 2023-23, we have successfully delivered over £11million of household support funding to over 40,000 households. We have also supported over 1,000 Ukrainian refugees into accommodation with around 300 Nottinghamshire host families as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, and this work will continue into the current year. Our wider Local Communities Fund awarded almost £1.2million to over 90 voluntary and community groups in 2022/23 and supported 110 young talented athletes to develop their elite sporting skills. We also awarded £500,000 of capital funding to 54 local community groups to help them improve local facilities for residents. In addition, over 100 community groups shared £250,000 to help them support people to manage with energy and food costs.



We have worked hard to get people access to their NHS flu vaccination, so that those people most vulnerable to the ill-effects of flu stay can safe and well over winter. This year, we vaccinated 1,896 of our frontline staff to help protect them and the vulnerable people that they support. We have also promoted the national flu immunisation programme by targeting pregnant women from areas and communities where vaccination rates were low. Our social media campaign successfully reached over 40,000 people in communities where English is not the first language.



We have increased the hours of support people receive at home through homecare services, and have helped people to access our adult and social care services closer to where they live. Our strengths-based practice approach builds on individuals' independence, resilience and ability to make choices and their skills to help them to live the best life they can, whilst reducing reliance on long-term care. Between September 2022 and March 2023, the number of people connected to a community group or the voluntary sector as part of their support offer increased by 32 per cent.



A real example of how a strengths-based approach makes a difference:

“Ms R lives alone and was referred to social care for care and support after being in hospital. Through conversation it was established that Ms R’s main need was for support with shopping. The worker liaised with Ms R’s preferred local supermarket and because she was unable to do her shopping online, came to an arrangement with staff there that she could order her shopping via a telephone call, which she felt confident with. This maintained Ms R’s choice, control and independence and meant she did not need to rely on social care support”.



We have supported people to live healthier and more active lives. The Integrated Wellbeing Service has provided support to residents in meeting their health and wellbeing goals, including: helping 1,300 people to stop smoking, which contributes to a long-term downward trajectory in the number of people experiencing harm from tobacco; helping over 1,200 people to reduce their alcohol consumption; supporting 1,300 people to become more physically active and helping over 2,000 people to reduced their weight. The service has also supported 5,333 people with long term physical or mental health conditions during 2022/23.



We are leading the way in our work to ensure the voices and views of people accessing our services are heard and are at the heart of what we do and how we do it. In particular, our Adult Social Care and Health department has made considerable progress in this area, publishing a plan for working with people called **Better Together**. Recently, colleagues from Adult Social Care and Health have been undertaking a ‘**Big Conversation**’ and have listened to people to understand how well we support them to have a good life. One of the key themes emerging from this was how carers really feel and this will help to shape the support carers will receive in the future as will our joint Carers Strategy 2023-2028, which was co-produced with carers and with health partners and the City Council. The Big Conversation **report** has now been published and we will use it to drive continuous improvement in our adult social care services.





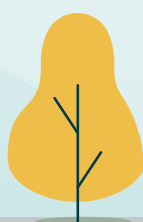
We have successfully **enabled more people to live independently in their own homes** – we have achieved this by continuing to invest in our Maximising Independence Service and have therefore reduced the number of people needing long term adult social care services. As a result, only six per cent of people who received help from this service between April and June 2023 went on to need longer-term support. We have also invested to stabilise the home care market in the county and have seen an increase of 10.25 per cent in the home care hours commissioned, from 23,820 in 2022 to 26,569 in 2023.



We are working with partners to increase the number of people being discharged from hospital to their home first time and reducing the time it takes to do this. To achieve this, we are leading the way in establishing collaborative multi-disciplinary transfer of care hubs in all three acute hospitals. Since October 2022, we have increased the number of people who left hospital with social care support to recover.



We are improving the help available to people struggling with their mental health and wellbeing, or who are at risk of self-harm and suicide, and we have continued to improve the support available to ensure children and young people can access early help and support to meet their emotional and wellbeing needs. We have seen a 35 per cent increase in Mental Health Act assessments in the last 12 months and we are **working with partners to integrate and co-locate services** for adults requiring mental health support, so that we are able to work together to prevent crises and provide early, effective support. **We are upskilling the workforce** to ensure they are able to make every contact count in addressing the mental health and wellbeing needs of the people they support. From January to May 2023, there were over 800 attendances at training from a wide range of organisations operating within the county, which improved the skills and confidence of the workforce in identifying and responding to poor mental health, risk of suicide, self-harm and suicide bereavement. **We continue to invest in Mental Health Support Teams in schools.** Currently, pupils in 120 school across the county can access this support and by 2025 this will increase to 180.





In 2022/23, **we have worked with partners to support around 3,300 survivors of domestic abuse and have** supported over 3,000 calls to the locally funded domestic abuse helpline: an increase of 31 per cent on the previous year. We have also established a Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to bring leaders together to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse, improving the lives of women, men and children affected by abuse.



Our relatively stable financial position means that we have **continued to invest in services, like children's centres and young people's services**, that help children get the best start in life, support parents, give young people safe places to go and that identify needs early and prevent them getting worse. Building on our current children's centre offer, we are **introducing new family hub networks across the county**, designed and delivered with partners, communities and families. Our first family hub has launched in Retford in April 2023, and we are committed to increasing the number of family hubs across the county over the next year. During 2022-23, **our Young People's Service supported 12,623 individual young people** to engage in a range of fun, safe and high-quality positive activities and opportunities with a trusted youth worker.



We have enabled more eligible families to access funded childcare, so that parents can return to work, education or access training whilst their children can attend school. 84 per cent of eligible two-year-olds accessed this offer. This is the highest in the East Midlands region, and is above the national average. 100 per cent of the funded places for four-year-olds and 93 per cent of places for three-year-olds were taken up.





We have continued to improve the number of primary school children who get their first choice of school. In 2022, 96.5 per cent of primary school children got their first choice (compared to 93.4 per cent in 2021) We have achieved this by **investing £26.6m in new schools and expanding existing school's capacity**, with new primary schools opening in Bingham and East Leake. **We have also expanded schools to provide additional school places for young people with special educational needs and disabilities**, with capacity added at Newark Orchard Special School and Derrymount Special School for the autumn term in 2022. In addition, a partnership between King Edward Primary and Stubbin Woods Special School has provided additional primary specialist places. This activity continues for coming years with planning consent being received in June 2023 for a new primary school at Gateford Park in Worksop to open in September 2024 and in principle support has been given to a new school for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities at Ravensdale in Mansfield. Together with other smaller projects they represent almost **300 additional places for children with additional needs**, the equivalent of three new Special Schools.



We have piloted new and innovative ways of working, to improve the support we offer to children in need of help and protection, and their families. The early signs are promising. Families who have been supported by our new Family Support and Safeguarding Team in Newark are more likely to sustain the positive changes they achieve as a result of our support. Families have received additional support to address domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health. In 2020-21, 17.5 per cent of children were subject of a second or subsequent child protection plan within two years. In 2022-23, this had reduced to 10.8 per cent.





We are supporting more children to stay safely at home with their families, avoiding the need for local authority care. Bringing together colleagues from across the partnership to think creatively about the help and support that will achieve this (our Creative Solutions Panel) has helped to safely avoid admissions to care. The panel has supported children or sibling groups and has successfully helped to avoid a significant proportion of them being taken into care

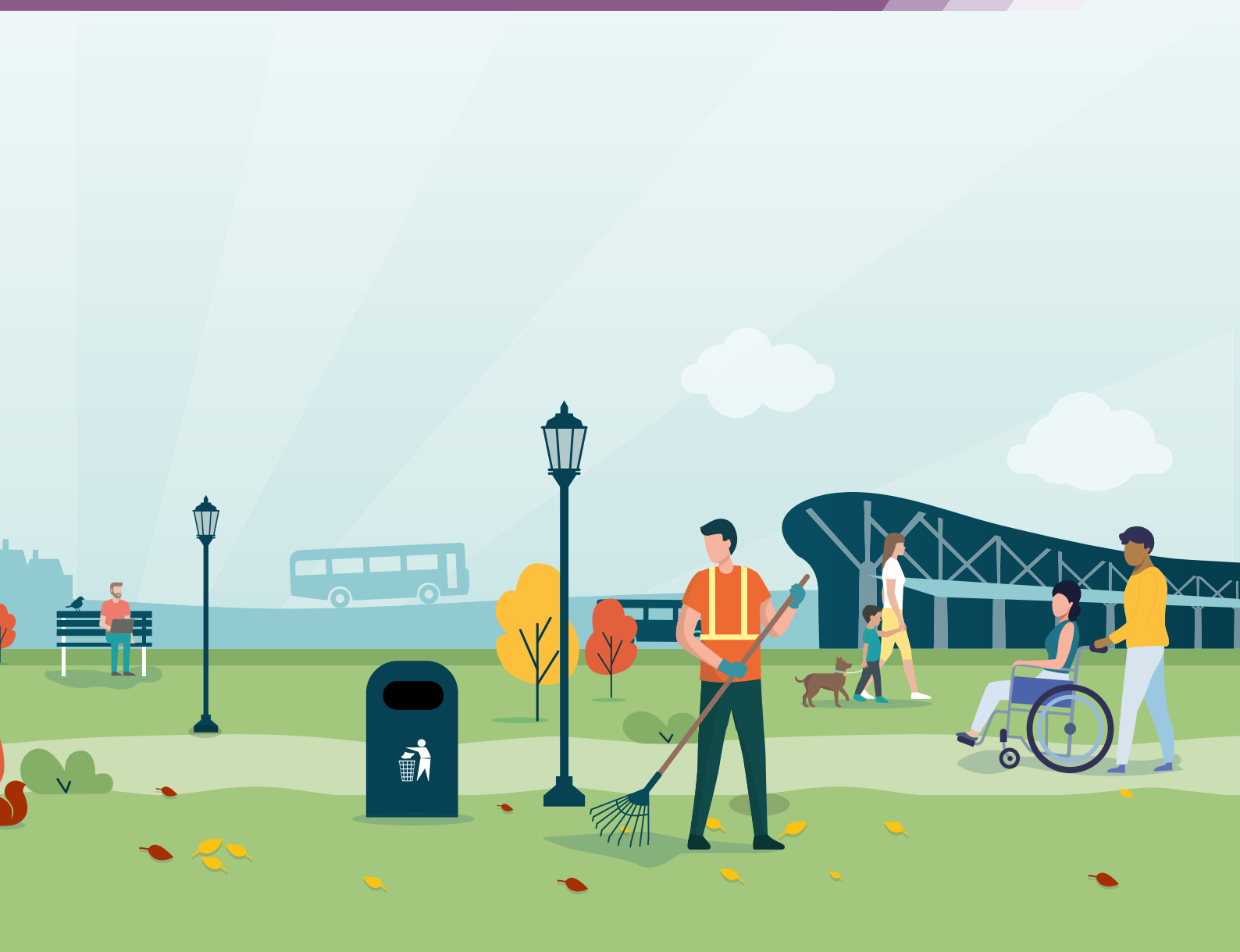


We have invested in support and services to help children in care to live in safe, stable and caring family homes, giving them the right environment to learn, achieve and aspire for the future. We have established a kinship care service so that where children cannot be cared for safely by their immediate family, we have the support in place to help their wider family network to step up to care for them. We have also increased what we pay to our foster carers, so that more children can benefit from the great care that a stable foster home and family can offer. We believe that a safe, stable and caring home environment is one of the critical factors that helps our children and young people to achieve great things. We are incredibly proud of the achievements of young people leaving our care, with 36 care leavers attending university in September 2022.



This document highlights the key areas of progress for Nottinghamshire County Council during 2022/23. You can read the full 2022/23 Annual Report for more detail.

We are proud of our achievements, but the council remains committed to realising our Nottinghamshire Plan vision, for a healthy, prosperous and greener county. To continue to drive and deliver this commitment, we have already published an ambitious [Annual Delivery Plan for 2023/24.](#)



To find out what we've got planned for 2023/24
plan.nottinghamshire.gov.uk