

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PORTFOLIO
COUNCILLOR M RADULOVIC MBE****Report to Council – 12 JULY 2023****Planning Policy****Strategic Plan**

Following a previous consultation on the 'Issues and Options' ('Growth Options') document, a 'Preferred Approach' document was the subject of consultation in January-February 2023 and the responses have been considered. Discussions have been held with the Planning Inspectorate and Planning Advisory Service, and as a result additional/updated evidence is being prepared on matters including housing need, transport, town centres, climate change and biodiversity. A full draft of the Strategic Plan is being prepared for consultation in late 2023 or early 2024, to be followed by an examination by a Government Inspector. The 'Preferred Approach' document focused on the preferred strategy, housing and employment. It proposed that each authority other than Nottingham City Council should meet the housing need identified by the Government's 'standard methodology'. For Broxtowe the 'Preferred Approach' involved focusing housing development at Chetwynd and at the land previously removed from the Green Belt at Toton. No further Green Belt releases for housing would be proposed.

The Council is continuing to work in partnership with Gedling Borough, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe Borough Councils to develop the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan's Vision is for the area to lead on sustainable development in the region. It seeks to make the most of our economic, cultural, heritage and natural assets and to be at the forefront of tackling and adapting to the impacts and challenges of climate change. It includes a focus on enhancing blue and green infrastructure links whilst also meeting the housing and employment needs of the area.

A "Preferred Approach" consultation was undertaken in January and the Councils are now working towards a consultation on a 'Pre Submission' version of the plan later this year.

Neighbourhood Plans

Chetwynd: The Toton and Chilwell Neighbourhood Plan:

The Independent Examination is still underway. We are working on the final amendments to plans within the document, the Policies Map. We will then forward the documents to before commencing a targeted consultation soon thereafter.

Cossall Neighbourhood Plan:

The Regulation 16 Consultation is currently underway by the Borough Council. The Plan has been publicised and representations are being received. This consultation

will end on Friday 14 July. Intelligent Plans and Examinations have been appointed by the Borough Council to undertake the Independent Examination, which will commence in July.

Economic Development:

Kimberley Levelling Up Fund

The 'Kimberley Means Business' Levelling Up scheme in Kimberley has commenced. Town Centre Regeneration has launched with first round of business grants awarding over £20,000 to businesses in the town. Ecology surveys and tree clearance at Bennerley Viaduct have been completed and architectural plans for the proposed eastern ramp and visitors' centre are ready for consideration by planning.

Stapleford Town Deal

Town Centre Grant Funding

74 businesses have been supported by the Town Centre Grant Funding so far with £1 million committed to spend. 12 businesses have been granted an extension to spend their grant monies by the end of September.

Additional Learning Facility

All internal work is now complete, with final snagging client handover taking place on 30 May 2023. Opening event for the building to be held on 24 June in collaboration with Inspire.

Safer Cycle Scheme and Super Highway

The Cycle Hub on Ilkeston Road opened November 2022 and has been hugely popular, making over 350 bikes roadworthy to date. The Hub currently operates twice weekly and supports 60-80 people a week with transport/cycle related issues.

The Cycling Proficiency Training Track and Circuit around the Ilkeston Road Recreation Ground completed March 2023 and is currently under-going final snagging works. The formal opening of the Cycle Hub and Proficiency Track is scheduled for 3 July led by Darren Henry MP. The MP has sourced Chris Boardman MBE to officially open the event. Local primary schools have been invited. Development of the Cycle Super Highway is on-going in collaboration with VIA EM.

Traffic Management and Street Scene

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities approval of the Summary Document, Monitoring and Evaluation and Project Adjustment Request for the project has been received and we expect funding to commence mid-July 2023.

The Planning Committee granted planning permission on 7 June 2023 for the Community Centre and Young People's Facility. A community consultation event

was held on 25 May 2023 with over 80 attendees. Further consultations with the public will be held but majority of views were positive.

Enterprise Hub

Planning permission was granted 8 March 2023 for a new car park to be built at 131-133 Derby Road on the former Tiles UK site. This is a piece of enabling work for the Enterprise Hub. It is hoped that the car park will be fully operational by the end of October 2023. A design tender for the Enterprise Hub has gone to architects on 5 June with contracts to be awarded in August 2023.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Our 'Year 1' projects, with total funding of £313,650 got under way from mid-February, following delays in UK Government's confirmation of UKSPF funding. In the People & Skills theme, we are supporting the continuation of Broxtowe employment and Skills Partnership, previously funded through EU funds and have commissioned a report on potential future P&S activity from the Partnership's co-ordinator, at East Midlands Chamber. In the Business Support theme, we ran a very successful High Street Business Grant round in late March, spending £48,712 on small projects in Eastwood and Beeston/Chilwell. We will be running a set of business networking events, in each of the Borough's four main towns, in September. In the Communities & Place theme, our commissioned projects are; Stapleford Food Festival (24 June) and Beeston Light Night (4 November); the CCities Project (various events over 6 months); Ridewise establishing a new cycle hub at Coronation Park in Eastwood; Broxtowe Women's Project running a training and awareness programme; CAB piloting their innovative Financial Resilience programme. Our Communities & Place Good Ideas Fund is supporting 22 projects, all but two of which will be completed by September.

We are currently confirming details of our 'Year 2' Projects, most of which were set out in our investment plan, with total funding of £627,300. These include:

- A small set of People & Skills projects, to bridge a gap between the end of EU-funded programmes and the beginning of our 'Joint Commissioning' P&S and Business Support programme, in September.
- For Business Support, the 'Joint Commissioning' programme, agreed between us, other Nottinghamshire District and Borough Councils and the County Council, will deliver a programme of business support in Years 2 and 3, following the end of the EU and Council-supported programmes offered by the D2N2 Growth Hub.
- A set of Communities & Place projects includes continued support to CAB's Financial Resilience Project, Ridewise's work in Eastwood and Broxtowe Women's Project.

Year 3 Funding is more substantial at £1,643,527 reflecting the end of EU-supported People & Skills activity. A substantial portion of this funding is committed to the delivery of Business Support and People & Skills activity through the Joint Commissioning programme. We will develop a suite of Community & Place and People & Skills projects.

Eastwood Updates

Although the Eastwood Levelling Up Fund bid was unsuccessful, the Government have announced there will be a third round of the Levelling Up Fund and it is anticipated that the Council will place another bid in for Eastwood. In the meantime, the Durban House Community Group has been successful with a bid to the SPF 'Good Ideas Fund', and received £5,000 to commission a feasibility study at Durban House to ascertain what work is required to bring it back into community use. Further to this, the Nottingham Forest Community Trust were also successful with their Good Ideas Fund bid and will be running outreach/community football activities in Eastwood for young people over the summer. Brinsley Food Bank also received funding from the Good Ideas Fund, and there are a number of community organisations that will be/have received funding that will benefit the residents of Eastwood, such as Citizen's Advice and RideWise. A £25,000 business grant scheme was opened earlier in the year to businesses in Eastwood which has been very successful and received a considerable number of applications.

Asset Management

The tendering process for the 3 new build contracts to provide 28 affordable homes for rent on former garage sites, (plus the site of the Inham Nook pub) continues. We are in final stages of negotiation before signing the first construction contract. All schemes have Planning consent, and the contract with Homes England is now in place. This has allowed the first tranche of capital grant funding to be claimed – money towards the acquisition of the Inham Nook former pub.

Negotiations continue with developers and landowners on two schemes which will between them will provide up to 76 affordable dwellings for rent and shared ownership at Field Farm and off Coventry Lane.

The "buyback" programme of former Council houses has been streamlined, with relationships built with local estate agents and a fast surveying process to identify necessary works prior to offers being made. The scheme added 6 extra properties to the affordable rent roll in the year to end March 2023.

Following completion of the refurbishment of the old Argos block at The Square, Beeston unit 36 is currently under offer to Coffee#1. There remains 4 vacant units in this block some with offers received and these are under consideration.

A new letting of Unit 5 in phase 2 of The Square is due to complete week commencing 19 June 2023. This leaves unit 4 as the last remaining vacant unit in this block. We will be reevaluating the marketing strategy of this unit to try to encourage further interest.

Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF)

The work to the Eastwood area, mainly Princess Street and Wellington Street will include Insulating the walls to the buildings and topping up the loft insulation to meet the current standards. The work is in the conservation area and will include External Wall Insulation to the rear walls, non- roadside and Internal wall insulation to the front elevations. Some of the properties that have older window system will also be replaced during the duration of the 2-year scheme. The scheme is aimed at reducing the energy costs to the properties and tenants but also enhance the look of the areas. A lot of the other repairs issues will be picked up on the project including roof, gutter and chimney issues. The overall emphasis of the funding is to reduce the carbon footprint to the area. The bid included a total of 88 Properties, with the majority in Eastwood. A tender for the contract to deliver the project is soon to be issued using the Efficiency East Midlands Insulation Works framework.