

**Economic Development and Asset Management Portfolio
Councillor M Radulovic MBE**

Report to Council – 16 July 2025

Planning Policy

A public consultation on the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan Publication Draft (Regulation 19), produced by Broxtowe Borough, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe Borough Councils, closed on 25 April 2025. This replaced the previous Publication Draft which included Gedling Borough Council. The Councils are currently in the process of reviewing the representations received to this consultation and are working towards seeking approval to submit the Strategic Plan for examination in Autumn.

The Borough Council continues to support Town and Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Forums, and their consultants, in preparing their Neighbourhood Plans. There has recently been a particular focus on the Stapleford and Eastwood Neighbourhood Plans, which consultants are progressing, working with the respective Town Councils. The Borough Council has been providing support including the provision of data and assistance with mapping.

A Reduction of Carbon in New Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared in partnership with Nottingham City Council. The Council is also starting work on the first part of a Design Code, with further updates provided later this year.

Economic Development

Kimberley Means Business

Kimberley Means Business has recently seen a contract signed for the demolition of Kimberley Parish Rooms and its replacement with a new Hub, with work due to have started at the end of June. Similarly, the pavilion at the Stag ground has been demolished and a replacement with new changing facilities is in build. The new Visitors' Centre at Bennerley Viaduct is proceeding on schedule and, alongside the redesigned ramp, is due for completion in the autumn. Kimberley illuminations are now regularly scheduled, and the final round of business grants has seen the total awarded to SMEs in the town increase to £670,000. The cricket club has a new car park and a hybrid pitch for the current season and negotiations are advanced for new industrial units on the outskirts of the town. Finally, funding for pitch improvements in Swingate, at the Primary School, has been granted, with improvement works due to take place during the school's summer holidays.

Stapleford Town Deal

The Pencil Works, enterprise centre, makers space and co-working offices is moving towards the build phase which is anticipated in July. The High Street Rental Auctions Programme is about to issue its first few notices and the officer who has supervised its introduction is now working up a similar proposal for Eastwood. Derby Road Car Park is working well. A cycle scheme connecting Pastures Lane and the Town Centre is in development, mainly as an off road route called Stapleford Meadows. The route will also go alongside the Wheels Park in Pastures Road Recreation Ground, the new home for skateboarders and scooters in the town, building works on this will commence during late summer. The cycle training track is also being adapted for use by blind and partially sighted community members to learn safety techniques away from busy main roads. As regards the new Pavillion and pitches at Hickings Lane, GEDA's construction programme is ahead of schedule and completion should occur during early September. A similar timeline has been instigated for the MUGA and full size artificial grass pitches. The new cricket pitch work will start as soon as the integration with NCC's enhanced flood alleviation scheme designs is complete. The Towns Deal Board and Cabinet has agreed to use some of the funding to create three padel courts. Once complete the Stephen Gerrard Academy will commence operations.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The 2024/2025 £1.6 million programme was successfully defrayed and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has signed-off Broxtowe's final report on this matter. One of the final projects to launch is the exciting VR/AR trail celebrating key landmarks in and around the town that are synonymous with DH Lawrence. The launch of this is being timed to coincide with the DH Lawrence Festival.

This year's allocation of £1.056 million has been determined and spending on the programme has commenced. The capital allocation is £462,975 and the net revenue £593,745. Although the themes don't perfectly correlate this to last year's the spread of funding is broadly as follows - an approximate breakdown in percentage terms between People and Skills, Business Support and People and Place. The UKSPF Panel has met and allocated all the funding between projects and has now determined those community grant applications that have been successful. The next major task is to launch the £160,000 business growth grants programme. Another project which has also been funded for a second year is the Eastwood CEDARS project, the premises are now complete and ready to start delivering services.

Another area of work

The Council is preparing a Strategic Outline Business Case to look at the feasibility of redeveloping land on Walker Street in Eastwood, along with the site of the current library. The proposal is to develop a health centre, GP surgery and new learning facility on the site, based on the 2022 Levelling Up Fund bid. Consultants have been engaged and are actively speaking to stakeholders, including the County Council, local healthcare providers and Inspire Libraries and a report is being prepared for Cabinet.

Asset Management

The Asset Management and Development Team are endeavouring to continuing the positive momentum that has been generated in terms of addressing risk around both fire safety and asbestos management, two key areas under the Safety and Compliance part of the Social Housing Regulator framework. All communal area inspections have now been completed, both in terms of Fire Risk Assessments and Asbestos Management, and remedial work programmes have now commenced, with newly procured contactor partners. The team acknowledge that the 'run rate' in respect of inspections within dwellings, both to support a 'Stay Put' stance in terms of fire safety, and asbestos safety, needs to be increased, and more labour resource is being applied to both, in order to achieve an improved position.

The SHDF (Social Housing Decarbonisation fund) Wave two part funded project in Eastwood will complete in August 2025, bringing significant energy efficiency benefits to Housing customers and private residents, on Scalby Close and Princes Street.

The second part of the councils refreshed approach to the management of its housing stock has commenced, with a further 2000 stock condition surveys instructed following a procurement process with Michael Dysons. This is in addition to the 2,500 that were completed in 2024, and also includes a full survey of all of the Council's commercial assets. The data relating to this stock to be transferred to a newly procured Civica Property Management system, which will help officers better manage the stock, both on a reactive and planned basis.

The council presently has achieved 100% in terms of tenanted industrial units in Beeston, and 89% in Stapleford, with only one account currently in arrears. Beeston Square presently has 3 unoccupied units, - however two of those are expected to be let within the next two to three weeks, pending the award of leases.

A £90k funding bid has been submitted, through the fifth round of Museum Estate and Development Funding (MEND), which, if successful, will enable the Council to make significant investment in energy efficiency measures at the DH Lawrence Museum. Further applications through the Museum Renewal Fund and Heritage Lottery are presently being prepared.

The new burners at the Bramcote Crematorium site have now been installed, on time and on budget, and are now operational. A funding bid through EMCCA, valued at £80k, has been submitted, to support the installation of solar panels on the site, with the view that it will both help to further decarbonise buildings, and create significant benefits in terms of running costs of the site.

The relaunch of the Broxtowe Lottery is currently being planned, celebrating it's seventh birthday, with finalised communications due to be presented for approval early July. There will also be a finalised draft of a guide to the public toilets in the Borough. Both of these pieces of work will be completed by our Commercial Manager.

Our two apprentice colleagues in Development have successfully completed their first year with flying colours. We are very proud of them both and they have set a very high bar for future apprentices coming into the business, as well as demonstrating the effectiveness of delivering a well thought through, proactive approach to the development of young people within the authority.