

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

Report to Council

UKSPF Funding

Delivery of UKSPF across Broxtowe continues to progress positively, with current expenditure across live projects standing at £382,327 (excluding unpaid commitments and programme administration costs). Funding remains widely allocated across active and pipeline projects, with further reconciliation underway to confirm final commitment levels as schemes are refined and advanced through delivery phases. Committed funding is close to 100%, with allocations identified across projects, though some adjustments are expected as schemes are finalised. Programme activity remains strong, with community and business grant schemes well underway, supporting local organisations and SMEs and contributing to economic resilience across the borough.

The new Skills & Training Fund, launched on 12 November, is providing support for residents and businesses to upskill and retrain in response to evolving workforce demands, aligning closely with the People & Skills priority and Broxtowe's wider employability objectives. Planning is also progressing for the Pre Start-Up Business Breakfast in January, which will support aspiring entrepreneurs, strengthen enterprise pathways, and create a clear pipeline into the forthcoming Start-Up Fund to stimulate new business formation and early-stage growth. Alongside this, development of the Stapleford Pencil Works Heritage Trail is underway which aims to celebrate local industrial heritage and strengthen town centre identity, while expansion of the Beeston Bee Trail aims to increase footfall and enhance town centre vibrancy. The Hollies Square redevelopment in Eastwood has moved into delivery mid-December as part of a broader programme of town centre improvements. The UKSPF programme continues to be carefully monitored to ensure effective delivery, sustained momentum, and strong outcomes, with a continued focus on maximising impact, maintaining spend progression, and achieving full utilisation of UKSPF funding in line with Broxtowe's economic, social, and community priorities

Stapleford Town Deal Funding

The Stapleford Towns Deal continues to progress at pace, with several key milestone and achievements in October and November. There has been a significant amount of coverage in the local press across all platforms, with a great news piece on the visual impairment improvements to the cycle training track on Ilkeston Recreation Ground.

One of the main milestones achieved was the community event and official opening of the Stapleford Community Pavilion which took place on 28th October and was a huge success. With over 500 local people in attendance, taking part in a range of activities and meeting some of the community organisations and activity providers

that will operate from the site. occupy the spaces and activities that will be run. There were a number of key stakeholders in attendance including the Mayors from both Broxtowe and the County, special guests including the friends and family and individuals who have had the activity rooms within the building named after them, and also local footballing hero Dave Watson, who the 11-a-side 3G all-weather pitch is to be named after.

Work is nearing completion and showing progress on a number of sites, this includes on the Skate Park at Pastures Road Rec Ground and is due to be completed next week, with an official opening planned for early in the new year. In addition, work has started on site at the Pencil works and the steel frame is due to be complete mid-January 2026, with the main construction expected to be completed October 2026. We are expecting confirmation on some additional funding from EMCCA to support the additional project costs.

The Visual Impairment Improvement at the Ilkeston Road Cycle Training track are now complete and with a significant amount of press coverage and positive news stories, showcasing the added benefits of these improvements.

Work continues for the design for Meadows Way and we are working with the Parks team to confirm the improvement for the cycle paths at Pastures Road Rec Ground.

The Planning application for the Cricket Pitch just off Pit Lane has been to Planning Committee on Wednesday 12th November and has been deferred and work is underway to address the concerns raised, design work is progressing with the Cricket Pavilion and due to be submitted to planning later in the year.

In regard to the Street Improvement Works, after a couple of unsuccessful tender exercises the design and build works for the Walter Parker Sq and due to go out again imminently, timeline for this work will then be confirmed. The Street Improvement looks to de-clutter and improve street furniture, works are progressing with meetings taken place with VIA on behalf of highway authority and next steps are underway.

Kimberley Means Business

The remedial work to the ramp is now complete with connection to the Viaduct deck. The new anticipated opening date for the ramp is 'before Christmas'. Weather has hampered recent building work. The Visitor Centre remains on hold waiting for ramp work to complete to allow contractors back on site.

Industrial units are progressing well at Shilo Way with external cladding now completed. Practical completion date remains, to plan, as 01/05/2025. Planning and procurement is being worked on for the Giltway units

Sports work has largely completed. All cricket club work, including new nets, is now done. Improvements to Swingate pitch are nearing completion and Digby Street pavilion has been renovated. The new pavilion at the Stag ground is hopeful to be watertight by Christmas with an aim for KMWFC to return home for the Skegness Town game on Feb 14th – although this remains an ambition.

Business Grants work has completed. Business Grants work has largely completed, with case studies continuing to be published on the council's social media outlets. Progress on the Kimberley Hub is good with the steel superstructure now in place. The programme is currently running at an approx. 1 month delay due to the discovery of a Victorian sump in early construction.

Planning Policy:

The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan is progressing, with approval sought to submit the plan for examination. Subject to approval, it is expected that examination sessions will commence in late Spring.

With regard to Development control we have received 3 large major applications for the sites around the Toton Park and ride and are expecting/ have received a large scale application for the Bennerly Employment Site. Two planners have recently left to move to pastures new and we have just recruited two new planners.

Estates

The Estates Team continue to work towards reducing the arrears across the commercial estate, and are making significant progress with both outstanding rent and service charge accounts relating to a number of retailers.

Discussions continue in terms of a number of pieces of council owned land across the borough, as part of an ongoing repurposing plan to bring under / disused assets back into use, for the benefit of the wider community.

Annual Valuation Process

The annual stock valuation process has been concluded, and the team have noted a number of recommendations from auditors, as part of the ongoing service improvement plan in Estates.

Civica Property Management Software

The council continues to develop its partnership with Civica to deliver a new, modern Property Maintenance Portal. This innovative platform will streamline the way repairs and other activities relating to the commercial estate is tracked, while improving efficiency and transparency in terms of the overall management of the commercial estate. The portal will provide a user-friendly interface for Estates colleagues and enable real-time updates, ensuring a better and more efficient management service. We are on track for a full go-live in December 2025, marking a significant step forward in our commitment to delivering high-quality services to our commercial customers and embracing digital transformation.