

## Portfolio for Leisure and Health Councillor T A Cullen

### Report to Council – 15 July 2026

#### Liberty Leisure Update

##### **Annual Accounts**

The 2025–26 year-end position for Liberty Leisure has now been finalised and presents an overall positive outcome. Income has increased over the course of the year, while expenditure has been carefully managed and reduced.

It is noted that only half of the management fee has been drawn during the year, and the financial position also reflects accrued costs to account for anticipated utility charges. Taking these factors into consideration, Liberty Leisure has achieved a modest surplus of £2,300 and, as a result, has no corporation tax liability.

This position highlights the continued focus of Liberty Leisure on strengthening income streams while maintaining robust financial control. It also reflects the significant efforts of the team in delivering a balanced and sustainable financial outcome for the year.

##### **Stapleford Pavilion**

Since opening in October 2026, usage of Stapleford Pavilion has continued to grow steadily, reinforcing its value as an important community asset.

The Padel courts are seeing strong levels of use. With improved weather conditions and lighter evenings, participation has increased significantly. To further maximise the potential of this facility, plans are being developed to install lighting and a canopy, which will enable greater year-round usage and enhanced income generation.

##### **Stronger with Parkinson's Programme**

In January 2026, a *Stronger with Parkinson's* group was launched at Hickings Lane Pavilion, in partnership with Nottingham West Primary Care Network, using the new e-gym equipment.

An initial analysis of participant outcomes has now been completed, showing encouraging results over a relatively short period:

- Average reduction in overall BioAge: 8.3 years
- Average increase in flexibility and mobility BioAge: 20.75 years
- Average increase in lower body strength BioAge: 8 years

These early findings are highly positive. In particular, the marked improvements in mobility, flexibility, and lower body strength demonstrate that personalised,

technology and supported strength training can play a valuable role in supporting people living with Parkinson's.

## **Communities Update**

### **Children and Young People**

Five out of the seven secondary schools in the Borough attended the Youth Conference held in February 2026, with participation from 66 young people. The event focused on the themes of mental health and social media. Research associated with the conference was undertaken by Ellen Froustis, an Oxford Lecturer, and the resulting report is nearing completion. An action plan is being developed based on the views and experiences shared by young people, and those who attended the conference will be updated on the outcomes.

A large piece of artwork created by attendees at the conference is now on display at Beeston Youth Centre. It is hoped that permission will be secured for the artwork to be displayed within the Council Offices above reception.

Progress has been made in strengthening relationships with schools, including engagement with a number of schools through the quarterly Children and Young People Partnership meetings.

Bookmarks have been distributed to schools as part of a design competition linked to the White Ribbon Campaign.

A family walk, stay and play event was delivered in Eastwood in May 2026, organised by Active Notts. The event included a short story session at Eastwood Library, followed by a walk to Coronation Park, where a range of organisations and partners hosted interactive stalls for children. Despite very warm weather, the event was well attended and achieved a high level of engagement.

Nottingham Forest Community Trust has identified Eastwood as a priority area for targeted work and has commenced a programme of football sessions. These sessions are led by Forest coaches for the first hour, followed by a 'hangout' wellbeing session in the second hour, incorporating refreshments, snacks and wellbeing mentoring. The sessions are free to attend, with advance booking recommended although attendees can also attend on the day.

Work is currently underway with the Sexual Health Promotion and Outreach Team within the City and County Sexual Health Service to establish delivery in Eastwood, including collaborative work alongside Family Hubs and Youth Centres.

Further engagement with Youth Centres is also being planned, including the potential to host open days to showcase the range of activities and support available, and to provide young people and their families with a greater understanding of the services on offer in order to encourage participation.

Planning is also underway for Anti-Bullying Week in November 2026, which will include delivery of the Odd Socks Campaign.

## **Health**

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy has been updated to reflect current priorities and objectives for the Borough.

Two Carers Roadshows have been delivered, in Stapleford during National Dementia Awareness Week and in Beeston during National Carers Week. These events provided opportunities for carers to access help, advice and signposting to relevant services, while enabling partner organisations and stallholders to engage directly with attendees and receive referrals.

The Thrive Cancer Support Group commenced on 16 April 2026 at St Mary's Church, Eastwood, funded through the North Broxtowe Bursary Fund.

An Eastwood Parkinson's Exercise Group has also been supported through funding from the North Broxtowe Bursary Fund to purchase specialist equipment aimed at increasing physical activity for individuals living with Parkinson's.

In relation to dementia, a listening event organised through the Broxtowe Action Network for Dementia is scheduled to take place at the British Legion Hall in Beeston on 25 September 2026. The event will provide updates from the previous, offer advice and information from relevant services, include "have your say" workshops, and feature a guest speaker from Sheffield Hallam University presenting on the theme of living alone with dementia.

## **Mental Health**

During Mental Health Awareness Week in May, information was shared and promoted through the Council's social media channels and newsletters.

In partnership with the Samaritans, leaflets and posters were distributed across a range of locations in Beeston, including the Library, Jobcentre, Tesco, and the Middle Street Resource Centre. Additional materials were placed in and around Chilwell Retail Park, including the Village Hotel, McDonald's and Costa. Posters were also displayed at Beeston Police Station, Citizens Advice, the Council Reception, and on external Council display boards. Samaritans information was further promoted through Council newsletters and media communications.

A total of 1,700 Samaritans teabags has been received and will be included in food parcels to support residents experiencing food insecurity.

## **Environmental Health**

The food premises inspection programme continues to progress, with a high volume of new premises registrations being submitted. Currently, 73% of food premises within the Borough are rated either 4 (Good) or 5 (Very Good).

A total of 18 statutory accident notifications have been received under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

Nine infectious disease notifications have been recorded, including one case of legionella.

The Air Quality Status Report has been completed, confirming that all monitoring sites across the Borough continue to meet the national Air Quality Objective.

Joint working with partner agencies remains ongoing in key areas impacting public health, including Tobacco Control initiatives and the review of premises licences where non-compliant products or under-age sales have been identified.

### **Events Programme**

#### **Easter Fun Day at Nuthall**

Broxtowe's first Easter Fun Day was held on Friday 10 April 2026 at the Nuthall Temple Centre and Nuthall Methodist Church, attracting 650 attendees. The event formed part of the new 2026/27 Events Programme and was deliberately designed to take place across both indoor and outdoor spaces during the Easter school holidays. This approach helped mitigate the risk of adverse weather, while expanding the range of cultural and recreational activities available to families during holiday periods.

On the day, favourable weather conditions enabled a full programme of activities to be delivered both in and outside, including arts and crafts, face painting, fair rides, puppet shows, Minecraft sessions and DJ workshops. Several new elements, particularly the DJ and Minecraft workshops, proved especially popular and broadened the appeal of the event across different age groups. The use of two new venues also strengthened local partnerships and increased engagement with stakeholders, building on and enhancing the reach achieved through last year's outdoor Play Day in the area.

Feedback from attendees was positive, highlighting the range of activities available, the benefit of the event being free of charge, and the effective use of both indoor and outdoor spaces.

#### **Hemlock Happening**

Hemlock Happening took place on Saturday 6 June 2026 at Bramcote Hills Park, attracting around 8,500 attendees, the second highest turnout on record. Despite an unfavourable forecast, the weather remained largely dry, enabling the event to go ahead as planned.

The Green Zone delivered its most successful year since its introduction three years ago, attracting around 550 visitors to a range of interactive activities, including live beehive demonstrations, planting sessions and recycling games. The wider event programme offered a vibrant mix of attractions, from live music and creative activities to funfair rides, a climbing wall, classic cars, a dance arena and emergency services displays, all culminating in the popular fireworks finale.

Next year is the 25th anniversary of the Hemlock Happening and planning has already started to ensure a special celebration is organised.

**Beeston Summer Fete**

Beeston Summer Fete took place on 4 July 2026, featuring a vibrant 'We Love Beeston' carnival parade alongside a wide range of activities, including live entertainment, face painting, African arts and crafts, hula hoop, bubble and balloon workshops, community stalls, circus skills, drumming sessions, fair rides, a dog show and Beeston's Got Talent.

The parade theme, 'We Love Beeston', celebrated the town's diverse and inclusive community, showcasing the very best of Broxtowe.

The event was proudly sponsored by Fresh Asia (Europe) Ltd.

**Upcoming Events**

The forthcoming events programme offers a varied and engaging line-up across the Borough. Friday18 will run every Friday at 18:00 in Beeston Square and at venues in Kimberley until 7 August 2026, giving residents the chance to enjoy free live music while supporting local businesses and boosting the vibrancy of the town centres.

Summer Fun Days will take place in Eastwood on Thursday 6 August 2026 and Chilwell on Wednesday 19 August 2026, providing a range of free activities for children and families during the school holidays. Proms in the Park is scheduled for Sunday 16 August 2026 at Dovecote Lane Park, Beeston, featuring performances from the Nottingham Concert Band and vocalist Jayne Darling. An Outdoor Theatre event is also being planned for September at Bennerley Viaduct, showcasing the site as a valued community asset, supported through the Kimberley Means Business Fund, with the date to be confirmed.

The D.H. Lawrence Festival will run from 1 August to 13 September, celebrating the town's literary heritage while engaging local communities through a diverse programme of art, literature, music and cultural events. This includes the popular D.H. Lawrence Music Festival, which brings live performances to venues across the town centre, including a special set in the Museum garden. In 2025, Museum-led events attracted 1,172 attendees, with a further 5,267 people taking part in partner-led activities across the wider festival programme.

**D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum**

Museum engagement continued to grow strongly during 2025/26, with 5,850 visitors attending the site and a further 21,000 people reached through outreach activity.

This represents sustained year-on-year growth since the Museum transferred into the Communications, Cultural and Civic Services Team, benefiting from a more coordinated approach to marketing and audience engagement:

- 2022/23 – 3,700 visitors
- 2023/24 – 4,450 visitors, plus 7,750 through outreach
- 2024/25 – 4,550 visitors, plus 11,500 through outreach
- 2025/26 – 5,850 visitors, plus 21,000 through outreach

Performance analysis shows that 2025/26 achieved the highest visitor numbers on record, despite operating from a single site, three days per week, with a staffing model of 1.5 FTE supported by the wider team and volunteers.

By comparison, in 2014/15 the Museum operated across two sites (including the D.H. Lawrence Heritage Centre at Durban House), opened five days per week and had 8.1 FTE, yet only attracted 5,100 visitors.

This strong performance reflects a successful shift to a more agile operating model, focused on light-touch, high-impact activity, expanded outreach, enhanced marketing, and clear alignment with the Council's wider Cultural Strategy.

### **C-City Project**

The Council hosted the fifth annual C-City conference in June 2026, bringing together cultural representatives from four European partner cities: Châteauroux (France), Falun (Sweden), Grudziądz (Poland) and Gütersloh (Germany).

Discussions focused on future cultural collaboration, including accessible street theatre, youth engagement initiatives and digital exchanges such as a virtual choir. Since its inception in 2018, the C-City partnership has developed into a strong international network, delivering a wide range of cultural projects that support artists, promotes heritage and enhances cultural opportunities both locally and across partner cities.

Key achievements include an award-winning international recipe book, a touring amateur art exhibition, and musical exchange opportunities for local performers. The partnership has also supported initiatives such as the D.H. Lawrence Children's Writing Competition, engagement through Friday18 live music events, and the establishment of the Broxtowe Community Committee to strengthen collaboration between cultural organisations and the Council.

More recently, external funding has been secured to support inclusive arts projects, such as the Parky Players theatre group, demonstrating the continued impact of the programme in attracting investment, fostering creativity and raising the profile of Broxtowe's cultural offer.