

Portfolio for Leisure and Health Councillor T A Cullen

Report to Council – 14 October 2026

The Leisure and Health portfolio continues to deliver a wide range of services and initiatives that support the health, wellbeing and quality of life of residents across the Borough. Good progress has been made during the reporting period across leisure provision, health improvement programmes, community safety, cultural services, housing and equalities initiatives. Through strong partnership working and targeted investment, the Council remains focused on providing accessible services, supporting healthy communities and creating opportunities for residents to thrive.

New Bramcote Leisure Centre

A significant milestone has been reached in the delivery of the new Bramcote Leisure Centre, with contracts signed and construction activity now underway. Initial works include the creation of temporary parking arrangements and site preparation, with the main construction phase planned to commence later this year. The project remains on track for completion in summer 2028 and represents a major investment in the future of leisure provision within the Borough. Once complete, the new facility will provide modern, accessible and sustainable facilities that will support residents of all ages to lead healthier and more active lifestyles.

Get Active Developments

The Get Active programme continues to play an important role in improving health and wellbeing across the Borough by providing accessible opportunities for residents to become more active. New services planned for the coming months include additional strength and balance classes, stroke recovery support and Parkinson's-specific activity sessions, helping ensure activities are available for residents with a wide range of needs. Participation remains strong, with 580 residents currently enrolled on the Exercise Referral Scheme, while ongoing work with local health partners will help encourage more inactive residents to build confidence and improve their long-term health outcomes.

Successful SiSU Health Check Event

A recent health event at Bramcote Leisure Centre provided 21 residents with personalised health checks, advice and support from local health and wellbeing professionals. The checks identified that 10% of participants had high blood pressure and 57% were overweight or obese, resulting in two GP referrals, enabling residents to access additional support where required. Feedback from attendees was very positive, demonstrating the value of providing accessible health services within local communities and helping residents take proactive steps to improve their health and wellbeing.

Food and Occupational Safety Team

The Food and Occupational Safety Team remains on track to deliver its full programme of food inspections during 2026/27, helping maintain high standards and protect public health across the Borough. In addition to routine inspection activity, officers are undertaking a targeted programme to inspect unrated home caterers and childminders, ensuring that local records remain accurate and that food businesses are operating in line with regulatory requirements. While a number of recent inspections have identified falling standards, officers continue to work proactively with businesses to improve compliance, using enforcement powers where necessary to safeguard residents. The team has also successfully overseen improvements at a local business following concerns relating to hot tub management and a reported case of legionella. Following compliance with Prohibition Notices and extensive monitoring and sampling, all facilities have now returned to operation, with further improvements continuing to be implemented. Alongside this work, officers continue to support national food sampling programmes and have issued a range of animal activity licences, helping maintain high standards of animal welfare and public safety across the Borough.

Environmental Protection Team

The Environmental Protection Team continues to monitor air quality and undertake inspections of permitted premises across the Borough, helping protect residents and the environment. The service also responds to environmental nuisance and anti-social behaviour issues, using enforcement powers where appropriate. During the reporting period, four Community Protection Warnings and four Community Protection Notices were issued, supporting the Council's commitment to maintaining safe and welcoming communities.

Licensing

The Licensing Team continues to support local businesses, licensed premises, drivers and event organisers while ensuring appropriate public protection safeguards remain in place. During the reporting period, the service processed a wide range of applications, including personal licences, temporary event notices, premises applications and taxi vehicle licences, helping support the local economy and community events across the Borough. The team also successfully hosted the annual Nottinghamshire Licensing Training Day, welcoming more than 50 officers and Members from licensing authorities across the county. The event covered a range of important topics including illegal tobacco and vaping products, safeguarding, accessibility, equality and best practice in licensing hearings, helping strengthen professional knowledge, partnership working and regulatory standards across the region.

Private Sector Housing

The Private Sector Housing Team continues to play an important role in improving housing standards and supporting residents across the Borough. Preparations are progressing for the introduction of the Landlord Property Database, which will be implemented across the East Midlands in 2027 and will strengthen oversight of the private rented sector. The team continues to deliver a range of regulatory and enforcement activity, including property inspections, compliance checks and housing improvement work, helping to ensure that residents have access to safe and well-maintained homes. Demand for Disabled Facilities Grants remains strong, with 45 active cases currently being supported, enabling residents to remain independent and safe within their own homes. Work also continues on HMO licensing and compliance programmes, while officers manage a significant and often complex caseload to support housing quality and protect some of the Borough's most vulnerable residents.

Environmental Health

The Council's Annual Air Quality Status Report has been approved by DEFRA, providing assurance that air quality continues to be effectively monitored across the Borough. The team also continues to investigate complaints relating to noise, dust and other environmental issues, helping minimise the impact of development and nuisance activity on local communities while supporting wider environmental objectives.

D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum

This year's D.H. Lawrence Festival provided another successful celebration of the Borough's literary and cultural heritage through a varied programme of talks, walks, exhibitions, performances and community activities. The festival helped attract new audiences while encouraging residents and visitors to engage with local history and heritage. In addition, the museum has secured external funding to improve accessibility, ensuring that a wider range of visitors can enjoy and benefit from what the museum has to offer.

Culture and Events

The Council's summer events programme delivered a successful season of free community activities across the Borough, attracting approximately 6,800 attendees. Events included the popular Summer Fun Days, Beeston Summer Fête, Iron Giant: A Valley's Story and Proms in the Park, providing opportunities for residents of all ages to access cultural experiences, engage with their local communities and enjoy the Borough's parks and heritage assets. The recently completed Oxjam event also provided an opportunity to showcase local talent alongside musicians from Broxtowe's C-City partner towns, further strengthening cultural links and community engagement. The Tour Your Town campaign has continued to promote local attractions, heritage sites, events and town centres across Broxtowe, reaching approximately 170,000 people and encouraging both residents and visitors to explore and support destinations

across the Borough. The success of the year's programme reflects the strong contribution of partners, town and parish councils, community organisations and volunteers, whose support continues to play an important role in delivering high-quality events and activities for residents.

Attention is now turning to the autumn and winter events programme, including the Stapleford Autumn Fun Day and the annual Christmas lights events taking place across the Borough. Christmas celebrations will take place in Stapleford on 21 November, Kimberley on 27 November, Eastwood on 28 November and Beeston on 5 December, providing opportunities for residents, businesses and community groups to come together and support local town centres during the festive season. Work is also progressing on the refresh of the Council's Cultural Strategy and the development of the 2027/28 Events Programme. Together, these initiatives will build on the success of the current year's programme and continue to support participation in culture, heritage, arts and community activities while strengthening community pride and supporting local economies.

Sunflower accreditation

The achievement of Hidden Disabilities Sunflower accreditation reflects the Council's ongoing commitment to creating accessible and inclusive services for all residents. Work is now progressing to develop staff training, awareness raising and supporting information, helping improve understanding of hidden disabilities and ensuring residents receive appropriate support when accessing Council services.

Equalities

The Council continues to promote equality, diversity and inclusion through community engagement, awareness raising and partnership working. A Strength in Motion event brought together more than 70 refugee women and children, creating opportunities to build community connections while promoting health and wellbeing. A further Celebrating Strong Women event will take place in Beeston in November, providing opportunities for residents to engage with speakers, local organisations and information on issues affecting women, the LGBTQ+ community and safety within the night-time economy.

Alongside community events, work is underway to refresh the Council's Equality and Diversity, Religion and Hate Crime webpages and update staff training to ensure employees are equipped to support residents from all backgrounds. The service is also working closely with the Communications Team to strengthen the Council's approach to promoting religious observances, cultural awareness and inclusion throughout the year, helping to ensure that Broxtowe remains a welcoming and inclusive Borough for all residents.

Children and Young People

Progress is being made in delivering the action plan developed following the Young People's Conference earlier this year. The programme focuses on ensuring that the views of young people continue to inform local decision-making, while plans are already being developed for a further conference next year to strengthen engagement and encourage greater participation from young residents across the Borough.

Carers

A successful Carers Roadshow was held in Stapleford during September, providing information, advice and support for residents with caring responsibilities. The event helped raise awareness of services available to carers and created opportunities for residents to engage with local organisations, access support and learn more about the resources available to them.

Dementia

A Dementia Listening Event was held in Beeston during September, bringing together residents, carers, professionals and community organisations to share information, discuss local services and identify future priorities. The event provided valuable opportunities for engagement and learning, helping shape future support for residents living with dementia and those who care for them. Planning is also underway for a future Older Persons Day event, which will continue the Council's work in supporting older residents and promoting wellbeing within local communities.