

# Public Document Pack



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

## **Nottingham City Council Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee**

**Date:** Wednesday, 5 June 2024

**Time:** 2.00 pm

**Place:** Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham,  
NG2 3NG

**Councillors are requested to attend the above meeting to transact the following business**

**Director for Legal and Governance**

**Governance Officer:** Kate Morris

**Direct Dial:** 0115 876 4214

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Appointment of Vice Chair**
- 3 Declarations of Interests**
- 4 Minutes** 3 - 8  
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2024
- 5 Refugee Resettlement & Homes for Ukraine** 9 - 18  
Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer
- 6 Nottingham Greenspace Strategy** 19 - 38  
Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer
- 7 Work Programme** 39 - 46  
Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer
- 8 Dates of Future meetings**  
To agree to meet on the following Wednesdays at 2pm at Loxley House,  
Nottingham:  
  
3 July 2024  
4 September 2024

6 November 2024  
8 January 2025  
5 March 2025

If you need any advice on declaring an Interest in any item on the agenda, please contact the Governance Officer shown above, if possible before the day of the meeting.

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## Nottingham City Council

### Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG on 3 April 2024 from 2.02 pm to 3.49 pm

#### Membership

##### Present

Councillor Imran Jalil (Chair)  
Councillor Neghat Khan (Vice Chair)  
Councillor AJ Matsiko

Councillor Kevin Clarke (Substitute for  
Councillor Andrew Rule

##### Absent

Councillor Liaqat Ali  
Councillor Faith Gakanje-Ajala  
Councillor Sam Lux  
Councillor Nayab Patel  
Councillor Andrew Rule,  
Substituted by Councillor Kevin  
Clarke

#### Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Adrian Mann - Scrutiny and Audit Support Officer  
Councillor David Mellen - Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Regeneration and Communications  
Kate Morris - Scrutiny and Audit Support Officer  
Colin Parr - Corporate Director for Communities, Environment and Resident Services

#### 39 Apologies

Councillor Liaqat Ali - on leave  
Councillor Sam Lux - on leave  
Councillor Nayab Patel - personal reasons  
Councillor Andrew Rule - on leave

#### 40 Declarations of Interests

None

#### 41 Minutes

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meetings held on 6 March 2024 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

#### 42 CN28

Councillor David Mellen, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Regeneration and Communications, and Colin Parr, Corporate Director for Communities, Environment and Resident Services, presented a report on the initial outcomes of the recent 'best value' thematic review carried out in relation to the delivery of the Council's Carbon Neutral 2028 ambitions. The following points were raised:

- a) Achieving a Carbon Neutral Nottingham by 2028 (CN28) is an important part of the current Strategic Council Plan for developing a healthy environment and economic growth in the city. Seeking to address climate change has been a priority for some time and a great deal of activity has been carried out to date. However, due to the significant financial pressures facing the Council currently, there are a number of challenges to progressing CN28 as it is not a statutory requirement and it carries a certain level of cost.
- b) As a result, a 'best value' thematic review has been done to identify how CN28 can continue to be delivered in an effective and efficient way, going forward. The review began in November 2023 and concluded in February 2024. A draft report has been produced and its recommendations are being considered by the Council as part of the finalisation process. A great deal of data was fed into the review, which included interviews with internal staff and a range of external partners and stakeholders. As part of the report, a full analysis has been done to set out the Council's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the delivery of CN28.
- c) Ultimately, CN28 represents an ambitious strategy and there is a strong level of commitment to its delivery by both the Council and its wider partners. There has been a great deal of investment to date in green transport within the city for a sustained period, in addition to the operation of the important District Heating network – with Nottingham achieving a 45% reduction in carbon emissions between 2005 and 2021, in line with other Core Cities. The Council also hosts the Midlands Net Zero Hub, which is carrying out positive work across the wider region.
- d) However, the Council is facing significant financial challenges in relation to its current budget, which will make its direct funding and resourcing of CN28 activity more difficult. This is particularly exacerbated in the national context of wider economic issues and delays to the phasing out of petrol and diesel vehicles. As a result, there is a risk that the Council will need to focus on planning to address difficult issues in the short-term, making it harder to focus effectively on long-term projects such as CN28.
- e) As such, there needs to be a clear assessment of what CN28 can now deliver, and when. Delivery planning will need to be as simple and straightforward as possible. It is vital that CN28 makes contact with as many people as it can, particularly those groups that it has not engaged with substantially to date, to seek to achieve positive outcomes for everyone. There are opportunities to prioritise CN28 action more efficiently and to secure external funding to support the project. Large local organisations such as Nottingham's universities and hospitals could support CN28 in a number of ways and engagement will be carried out to maximise this. Emissions have been rising in the context of waste management so focused work is needed here to achieve better outcomes from the level of investment being made, and to increase rates of recycling.
- f) Following further testing and the drafting of finalised findings and recommendations, the completed 'best value' report will be shared with all partners and stakeholders. Key actions to support CN28 going forward will include

developing revised targets, producing a delivery strategy and plan, supporting a Local Area Energy Plan for Nottingham, rolling out a targeted climate engagement campaign and preparing for grant funding opportunities in 2024/25. Proposals are also being developed for a strategic commercial partnership to secure large-scale investment from private sector stakeholders, particularly in the area of growing clean energy production within Nottingham itself.

- g) A detailed and costed investment programme plan for the Council is being developed. The future commissioning needs of the Council's vehicle fleet and the operation of the District Heating network and cremation facilities are being considered carefully. A joined-up and strategic approach will also be taken to reducing the carbon footprint of the Council's small-scale commercial activity, and a clearer focus is needed on improving commercial and industrial buildings more generally. It is extremely important that the Council is in a position where it can deploy CN28 investment quickly and in a focused way, while taking full advantage of any available funding available regionally, nationally or from partners.
- h) The upcoming East Midlands Combined County Authority (CCA) will be seeking to address environmental issues at the wider regional level, so will represent a vital partner, going forward – particularly in the area of retrofitting homes to be more energy-efficient, where £10 million has been set aside for investment already.

The Committee raised the following points in discussion:

- i) The Committee asked what priority issues the Council would seek to progress with the CCA in relation to CN28. It was set out that the electrification of trains within the East Midlands area would make a huge contribution to reducing emissions, alongside moving to all buses and taxis being non-petrol/diesel. The further rolling out of retrofit to increase energy efficiency in social housing will be extremely important in improving living conditions for many people, and this will create opportunities for the CCA to develop skills to meet an increasing jobs market within the green economy. It is also important to seek to achieve better energy performance in homes in the private rented sector.
- j) The Committee queried how the Council's current financial position could affect upcoming commissioning decisions that would have an impact on CN28 objectives. It was reported that investment is made on the basis of the Council's 'best value' responsibilities and, although the delivery of CN28 is not a statutory duty, the Council is able to spend on initiatives that are intended to deliver future savings. As a result, business cases are being drawn up in support of green commissioning (such as maintaining a non-petrol/diesel vehicle fleet for the Council) where the initial investment cost might be higher than for other options, but where the Council would achieve lower costs in the long term. However, these business cases will need to be considered very carefully and in consultation with the Council's Commissioners, to ensure that they are justifiable in the current financial context.
- k) The Committee asked whether the CN28 objectives were deliverable, and how they would be funded by both the Council and its partners. It was explained that the Council is aiming as high as possible with its CN28 objectives to deliver the

greatest possible health and economic benefits for Nottingham people. There is good usage of green public transport in Nottingham, but there is also a pressing need to generate as much clean energy as possible within the city – including through making the best use of the District Heating network. However, the Council will need to review how CN28 can be delivered within both its current financial position and the national policy context, to ensure that a realistic approach is taken. CN28 objectives are delivered through work across a huge range of areas, using both internal and external investment, supported by a small team of 3.5 full-time equivalent employees within the Council.

- l) The Committee queried what level of investment was required to ensure the continued operation of the District Heating network. It was reported that a great deal of the District Heating infrastructure is reaching the end of its operational lifetime, so a significant level of investment will be required in the near future. The full range of options are currently under consideration and a full business case is being produced so that all potential investment opportunities can be pursued. Nottingham's waste incinerator is in good condition, producing the steam to drive the District Heating system – and work is underway to ensure that this steam generation is maximised.
- m) The Committee asked how the weaknesses identified through the draft 'best value' report would be addressed, and how it would be ensured that the best possible results would be delivered from the available investment. It was set out that, to ensure efficient operation, work was underway to ensure that the Council's associated regulatory functions would be exercised by the Carbon Reduction team. Full engagement is underway with all transport and industry partners to ensure that there is clean air in Nottingham, and robust business cases are being developed for appropriate investment in new technologies. The housing retrofit scheme is progressing well, including the introduction of solar panels where appropriate, but steps must be taken to ensure that everything installed can be maintained in the future. A 'clean air zone' for Nottingham is not currently being considered as air quality in the city can be improved further by other means.
- n) The Committee asked how the delivery of CN28 objectives could be supported by all Council staff and the Midlands Net Zero Hub. It was explained that engagement would be carried out wherever possible to ensure that achieving carbon neutrality is considered as part of 'business as usual' work across the whole Council. It is important that all staff are aware of the CN28 objectives and are empowered to contribute to their delivery in their regular work. The Net Zero Hub is now one of eight nationally, and it is performing extremely well. There is a very strong knowledge base at the Hub and consideration is being given to how this could be used appropriately to support the delivery of CN28 as part of a wider regional partnership.
- o) The Committee queried how the Council's current financial position might impact on the delivery of CN28. It was reported that the Council must focus on closing its immediate budget gap, so it is difficult to plan ahead for 2028. However, work is underway to ensure that addressing the immediate financial concerns does not override effective planning for the future. Engagement with partners (including local businesses and universities, and other Local Authorities) is taking place to seek to maintain momentum for CN28 across a wider base, as it is vital to

continue to prepare for and address the likely future impacts of climate change on Nottingham.

The Chair thanked the Portfolio Holder and the Corporate Director for attending the meeting to present the report and answer the Committee's questions.

**Resolved:**

- 1) To request that an update is provided on the position in relation to Carbon Neutral Nottingham 2028 (CN28) in 12 months' time, and on the Council's response to the final recommendations of the Best Value Report and the work towards delivering its CN28 targets in 6 months' time.**
- 2) To request that a Political, Economic, Social and Technological (PEST) analysis is completed on the proposed actions arising from the Best Value Report.**
- 3) To request that details of upcoming Green Partnership and Energy Hub events are circulated to members of the Committee.**
- 4) To request that considered comments on the potential carbon impact of proposals are included in all decision-making documents.**
- 5) To recommend that the Council liaises with the local universities to explore research opportunities for green energy generation in Nottingham, engages with sector leaders on the use of green technology within buildings and consider how this can be applied to Council buildings, and considers how commercial partnerships could be used to progress the work towards delivering the CN28 targets.**

**43 Recommendation Tracker**

The Chair presented the Committee's Action and Recommendation Tracker, and the latest response received to the Committee's recommendations from the relevant Portfolio Holder.

The Committee noted the Recommendation Tracker.

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**Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee  
5 June 2024**

**Refugee Resettlement & Homes for Ukraine**

**Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To consider the information presented within the report and at the meeting around the work being undertaken by the Council around resettlement of Refugees and the Homes for Ukraine Programme. To scrutinise the work and consider whether any recommendations to the Executive Member arise from discussion

**2 Action required**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked:
- 1) to make any comments or recommendations in response to the report from the Executive Member for Carbon Reduction, Leisure and Culture; and
  - 2) to consider whether any further scrutiny of the issue is required (and, if so, to identify the focus and timescales).

**3 Background information**

- 3.1 The Council currently manages the Homes for Ukraine programme, the Afghan and worldwide refugees resettlement programme and is part of the Home Office led Asylum dispersal scheme and has coordinated much of the work on the resettlement programmes on behalf of the City and the County since 2015 and has worked with the Home Office on the asylum dispersal scheme for over 20 years.
- 3.2 The teams work with a number of partner organisations and community groups as well as multi-agency forums to ensure the well being of people and families within the various schemes, with the aim of providing safe spaces, integrated communities and support for issues such as mental and physical health to learning English and other employment type skills.
- 3.3 Funding for this work comes to the Council from the Home Office, and from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and is ringfenced.

**4 List of attached information**

- 4.1 Report to Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee – June 2024: Refugee Resettlement & Homes for Ukraine

**5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

5.1 None

**6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

6.1 Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy

**7 Wards affected**

7.1 All

**8 Contact information**

8.1 Kate Morris, Scrutiny and Audit Support Officer.  
[Kate.morris@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.morris@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

## Report to Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee – June 2024: Refugee Resettlement & Homes for Ukraine

Amy Goulden, Head of Community Safety

Mandy Pride, Refugee Resettlement Lead

Jenny Denton, Project Manager Homes for Ukraine

### 1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide a progress update to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in relation to the support we are providing to those seeking sanctuary from war and human rights violations. In Nottingham there are four principle strands of work in relation to this. The city currently manages a Homes for Ukraine programme, funded by DLUHC, Afghan and worldwide refugee resettlement programme. Nottingham is also part of the Home Office led Asylum Dispersal Scheme – where the Home Office contracts with SERCO to place people awaiting a decision on their refugee claim here.

### 2.0 UKRAINE

- 2.1 Since setting up the Ukraine scheme in the city in 2022 the team have established a process to DBS check and visit potential Hosts. They then ensure hosts receive the Host Payments to enable Ukrainian guests to stay with local people wanting to support them. If a host/guest arrangement breaks down the team work to organise a re-match with a new host.
- 2.2 The team have supported and attended drop in sessions organised by the Ukrainian Cultural Centre. They have established a comprehensive mailing list to share information about classes, employment opportunities and other matters which may interest the Guests.
- 2.3 Nottingham receive ringfenced funding for this work from DLUHC, the team have to complete DELTA returns to DLUHC to account for the spend. The last DELTA return was submitted in May.
- 2.4 To improve our offer to Ukrainian guests and hosts there will be investment in growing a new joint Migration Team, learning from the successes of our refugee resettlement work. This will include recruiting workers to engage with hosts and guests, commissioning employment and housing support and establishing a small grants process.

Homes 4 Ukraine

Year	Pre 2022	2022	2023	2024	Total
Guests	114	261	82		457
Hosts	66	112	48		226

### 3.0 REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

3.1 Refugee resettlement has been coordinated by Nottingham City Council on behalf of much of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire since 2015 (Including Nottingham City, Broxtowe BC, Gedling BC, Newark and Sherwood BC, , Nottinghamshire County Council in the partnership). Originally focused on Syrian refugee families the scheme was expanded by the Home Office to the UKRS (United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme - worldwide). In 2022 the team also took on lead responsibility for the two Afghan schemes – ARAP and ACRS. ARAP (Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy) is a policy for Afghan citizens who worked for or with the UK Government in Afghanistan in exposed or meaningful roles and may include an offer of relocation to the UK. The ACRS (Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme) is designed to support those who have assisted UK efforts in Afghanistan and stood up for UK values, as well as vulnerable people, such as women and girls at risk. Nottingham City acts as the lead partner in matching families at need to properties and commissioning and grant aiding support services.

3.2

Count of URN	Column Labels	1900	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
ACRS		13							1	36	82	15	147
ARAP		5							61	5	51		140
UKRS		8	74	76	43	58	86	10	25	24		7	411
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>698</b>

3.3 The bridging hotel in Nottingham was set up following the Afghan evacuation under Operation Pitting in 2021, and this was followed with the procurement of serviced apartments within the city. Throughout their stay of two years, the team provided Afghan refugees with wraparound care, and worked in partnership with DWP, Home Office, health, and the charity/voluntary sector to ensure the needs of the families were met. The team and its partners were recognised by the Home Office as providing this support at the highest standard across all LAs.

3.4 Many individuals were suffering with high levels of PTSD due to their experiences, as well as family members who had remained in Afghanistan, and were at risk. We provided regular on-site ESOL, sexual health, healthy relationships, employment/career advice, children’s activities, and homework support throughout the two years, alongside outings and social gatherings to provide an opportunity for families to forget their trauma and stress for a time. They have now created and named their own football team.

- 3.5 The team's substantive focus during 2023 was on Afghan families accommodated in bridging hotels/serviced apartments (see below for further detail) following the evacuation of Afghanistan in 2021, while more durable solutions were identified. The Home Office issued all families with a 'Notice to Quit' their bridging accommodation in June 2023, and ultimately closed the bridging estate at end of August 2023, so the team had to work intensively to avert families moving into homelessness provision.
- 3.6 All families accommodated in the bridging hotel were successfully housed. The majority remained in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, but for those who wanted to move out of the area for a specific reason (family, job opportunities, etc) the team worked across localities to secure properties in other cities. Overall, the team supported **131 individuals** in bridging accommodation, **107 of which were resettled in Nottinghamshire**.
- 3.7 Following that success the team have worked intensively with the MOD to accommodate Afghans being evacuated from Pakistan, where they face deportation. Across the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire there are 10 MOD-provided Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties now housing families. Families will reside in these properties for up to three years.
- 3.8 In line with the Home Office funding requirements all refugees over the age of 18 receive at least 10-12 hours formal ESOL training per week and the team continue to work with partners to enhance this offer through various accredited courses which include security, construction, hair and beauty, health and social care, and food safety. Each resettled adult also completes a 10-week 'Life in the UK' course to support their initial cultural orientation.

## 4.0 ASYLUM DISPERSAL

- 4.1 Nottingham has been part of the Home Office asylum dispersal process for over 20 years. This provides accommodation and support via a Home Office-contracted provider (currently SERCO, previously G4S) while individual asylum claims are assessed. Historically, Nottingham has been home to a population of around 1000 asylum seekers at any given time.
- 4.2 Since 2020, this number has increased; there have been two SERCO-operated contingency hotels in Nottingham (one now closed), as well as a large block of flats which provides a mixture of temporary, initial, and dispersal accommodation to asylum seekers. These are in addition to various other clusters of private-sector housing across the city that are procured by SERCO as dispersal accommodation. Nottingham City no longer has a meaningful say in the Home Office and SERCO decision about where to place asylum seekers due to changes in policy at a national level.
- 4.3 In 2023, participation in asylum dispersal became mandatory for all local authorities, and SERCO have been actively seeking properties across Nottinghamshire.

- 4.4 In 2023 a new streamlined asylum decision process was implemented by the Home Office, intended to clear a substantial backlog of applications from individuals from seven countries, including new arrivals from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Libya, Syria, Sudan, Iran, and Yemen.
- 4.5 Applications are being assessed by the Home Office through an expedited 20-day process, but there have been issues with this process. The Home Office have increased the number of officers assessing applications, which will increase the throughput of decisions made, and it is expected that a significant majority of individuals subject to this process will receive positive decisions. A significant majority of these individuals are single people who will not qualify for support under Housing Solutions emergency accommodation criteria, leading to a potential increase in homelessness in the city with no additional funding from the Home Office to help mitigate this. Working with Housing Solutions, Refugee Forum, The Red Cross, Framework, Emanuel House and others partners have managed to avert a crisis of street homelessness amongst those recently given refugee status over the winter.
- 4.6 In collaboration with partners, on-site drop-in support session is now provided for asylum seekers, both at the largest contingency hotel and the flats in order to address issues and minimise escalation to other services, particularly Children and Families.
- 4.7 In 2021 the Home Office provided Local Authorities with **Asylum Dispersal grants** for each bedspace they accommodated in each LA area. This funding can be used to best ease specific local pressures arising from accommodating additional asylum seekers and ease pressures on local services. We have been able to use this funding to support Refugee Forum following the loss of the General Fund contribution to Grants in April and will continue to support the voluntary sector to provide these vital support services if the funding is repeated from national government in future years.
- 4.8 The team have delivered a small grant scheme for grants between £500.00 and £10,000 which include the following criteria:
- Addressing **isolation** in asylum seeker communities – including supporting existing work to promote **healthy relationships**.
  - Providing **safe spaces** for asylum seekers – supporting communities through providing physical space, particularly to asylum seekers who face social isolation or multiple barriers to inclusion
  - Being part of Nottingham – targeting **integration** through a range of activities or events including cultural and local awareness, peer support, befriending and social gatherings
  - **Empowering** asylum seekers – to offer support around crisis, hardship and poverty, this could mean financial difficulties or support and advice around practical needs OR to help asylum seekers be heard within mainstream services, partners and organisations
  - Support for asylum seeker **voices** – enabling asylum seekers to challenge cultural stereotypes, championing Nottingham as a **zero**

**tolerance city for hate crime** directed at asylum seekers and undertaking difficult conversations with wider communities.

- Mental Health Support – providing support that complements statutory provision to meet the specific mental **health and wellbeing** needs of asylum seekers

#### 4.9 Meetings and Forums:

- **MAF (Multi-Agency Forum):** This is the main forum serving as a clearing house for all matters relating to migration, where policy shifts, issues, concerns are addressed. This meets quarterly and is attended by a wide variety of statutory, voluntary, and charitable organisations who work within this field. SERCO, Migrant Help, Reed in Partnership, East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership (SMP) and others also attend to provide updates and take away issues for redress.
- **SERCO Temporary Sites:** The team facilitate meetings monthly with the voluntary/statutory sector to ensure there is co-ordinated approach across the two contingency sites and the tower block, to address any issues/concerns. So far this year, we have established the following:
  - Social prescribers now attend sites regularly
  - Regular wellness sessions
  - Mental health drop-in sessions
  - UK SIM cards distributed to residents
  - English, employability, beauty and nail courses
  - Drop-ins for women
  - Health sessions
  - Visits by the dental bus
  - On-site eye testing via contact with optician
  - English classes running each Monday at a local church
  - Conversation classes to enable English language practice
  - Youth group each Thursday evening for 6-13 year old's
  - Christmas gifts for families and individuals at all 3 venues.
- **Safeguarding Reference Meeting:** Due to the high number of vulnerable individuals and families we support, the team have developed a bi-weekly safeguarding group to raise and address safeguarding concerns relating to asylum seekers. The aim of this is to provide early intervention support while at the same time protecting the most vulnerable, and hold individuals/organisations accountable. A Terms of Reference has been agreed, and since commencing in April 2023 the team have discussed and actioned 32 cases.
- **Countering Asylum Hate and Vulnerabilities:** This is a new forum which was formed in 2023 due to the increase in hostility and negativity towards asylum seekers and other migrants. An action plan was delivered which included :
  - Work to build understanding with the established communities

- Help asylum seekers understand key UK rules and support Integration
  - Build and plan activities for Asylum Seekers using a coordinated approach and empower asylum seekers to actively engage with the broader community
  - Develop partnerships with local community and voluntary organisations, government agencies, educational institutions, and religious organisations to create a unified response to hate crimes.
  - Develop and implement communications to raise awareness about the challenges faced by asylum seekers and refugees.
- **RASLAG:** (Refugee and Asylum Seeker Liaison and Advisory Group) This is facilitated by Midwifery services, specifically working with pregnant asylum-seeking women to ensure the safety and wellbeing of mother and child, and their wider family if required. They work closely with the Transient Health Visitor's Team.
  - **East Midlands Regional Asylum Meeting/East Midlands Resettlement Engagement Meeting:** These are region-wide meetings which provide updates from the Home Office, DLUHC, and SMP. They provide peer support across all LA's, offer advance notice of new policy work under development, and highlight any current issues, concerns, or trends for escalation.
  - **Drop-Ins and Support:** Our Asylum Seeker and Refugee Coordinator provides support to new arrivals with access to education, health, housing, and other services as required. Drop-ins are held weekly at the hotels and tower block in partnership with health colleagues and Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum (NNRF). These provide any necessary support or signposting.
  - **Homelessness meeting:** Meets bi-weekly to discuss and address the potential increase in refugees becoming homeless due to the streamlined asylum process.

## 5.0 NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 The two teams are now under a single manager to provide cross team learning and support. The Refugee Resettlement Team is currently recruiting a Contracts and Commissioning Officer to support the regularisation of the grants, contracts and landlord arrangements in the team which have become more complex as the cohort has grown.
- 5.2 Work on a power BI performance dashboard is underway to enable quick access to core data and progress.



- 5.3 Work to develop and deliver improved services to those in the Ukraine Scheme particularly is a significant focus and the team will be looking to commission evaluation and support for this cohort in the near future.

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**Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee  
5 June 2024**

**Nottingham Green Space Strategy**

**Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To consider the information presented within the report and at the meeting around the development of the Nottingham Green Space Strategy. To scrutinise the areas of focus, and how its development been informed by the various stages of consultation.

**2 Action required**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked:

- 1) to make any comments or recommendations in response to the report from the Executive Member for Carbon Reduction, Leisure and Culture; and  
2) to consider whether any further scrutiny of the issue is required (and, if so, to identify the focus and timescales).

**3 Background information**

- 3.1 Nottingham City has a historic network of open and green spaces with over 20% of the City's total land area made up of accessible, open and green spaces.
- 3.2 There has been extensive consultation with a wide variety of community groups, partner organisations and other Stakeholders which has fed into the into the design and development of the Strategy so far.
- 3.3 Funding has been made available for this work through the Future Parks Accelerator Programme, a collaboration between the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the National Trust and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities designed to protect and develop green and natural spaces in urban environments.
- 3.4 The development of a Green Space Strategy will allow the Council to set out framework in which to operate services aimed at delivering a greener, healthier and happier city. It will allow the Council to fulfil its obligation for bio-diversity net gain, encourage resilient, climate positive places, and encourage a more active population.

**4 List of attached information**

- 4.1 Green Space Strategy Presentation

**5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

5.1 None

**6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

6.1 None

**7 Wards affected**

7.1 All

**8 Contact information**

8.1 Kate Morris, Scrutiny and Audit Support Officer,  
[Kate.morris@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.morris@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

# Nottingham Greenspace Strategy

A long term ambition for change...



# **Vision Statement from the Strategic Council Plan**

## **Nottingham Is Healthy, Safe, Clean, Green, Proud and Ambitious**

### **Greener Happier Healthier Green Space Strategy seeks to:-**

- Improve and sustain the Cities Green and Blue Infrastructure
- Protect and Enhance our Local Habitats and Biodiversity
- Engage our Citizens to encourage participation and volunteering
- Provide a more financially sustainable delivery model for Nottingham's Greenspace and Natural Environment

The strategy lays out a framework for how we will seek to deliver a programme of ambitious service objective's and deliver a Greener, Happier, Healthier City - a City we can all be proud of.

# OUR AMAZING GREEN SPACES



# FUTURE PARKS ACCELERATOR

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Funded through National Lottery Heritage Fund & Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities & National Trust

3-year programme with a dedicated project team

Consideration given to;

- Robust consultation
- Mapping assets, collating insight and data
- Cross sector partnership opportunities
- Blended funding and finance



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities



Made possible with  
**Heritage  
Fund**

**Future Parks  
Accelerator**



**Nottingham  
City Council**



# FPA OUTPUTS

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- Technical and Strategic Report
- Volunteering Strategy, CRM system & delivery model
- Marketing Strategy & brand assets
- Future operating models - legal positions
- Spirit of Place (workshops and statements)
- Experience Design including options appraisal & operating model recommendations
- Extensive Insight e.g., Quality Audit, Natural Capital/Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping & Tree Canopy Mapping
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Process for effective governance (Open & Green Spaces Champions Group)



# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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## WHO ?

- Open & Green Spaces Champions Group
- Nottingham Open Spaces Forum
- Whole council approach
- Jon Sheaff technical consultation
- Primary Parliament
- Arrow
- NOSF
- Bench Tour
- Green Hustle
- Annual Parks Satisfaction Survey
- Equality Impact Assessments

## HOW?

- Group sessions/121 Interviews/Meetings
- F2F Innovative approaches and then online



## FPA CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

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- Nottingham's green and blue space covers 38.1% of the city
- There are 1.1 million visits per month to our parks and open spaces
- 63% of city's residents visit parks and open spaces at least once a month
- We look after over 90% of the city's playgrounds
- Over 90% feel their park is important to their neighbourhood with nature, climate and wider environmental benefits considered important



# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Emerging Tree & Woodland Strategy - baseline questionnaire & hyper local focus groups
- Through transformational change projects (such as the Paddling Pool) stakeholder engagement is now a significant part of the design and deliver process and outputs



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# Our amazing greenspaces

Nottingham City Council has a historic network of open and greenspaces contributing to its image as a green city. We look after parks, playgrounds, nature reserves, allotments, cemeteries and community spaces for an increasing resident population of over 320,000 people.

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Nottingham's parks and greenspaces cover **1,670 hectares** (the same as) **1,113 football pitches**



Our total public green/blue spaces cover **38.1%** of the city's area (not including private gardens)

Tree canopy cover **13.75%** across the city

Nottingham's trees, plants and soil store over **5,000 tonnes** of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere every year



Over **90%** of people feel their park is important to their neighbourhood

**1.1 million** visits per month to our parks and open spaces with **63%** of residents visiting at least once per month



Small green spaces contribute **£65 million** per annum in health benefits to the city and contain **77%** of the city's play areas

**120 Km** of cycle paths and **480km** of signed Routes



Nottingham's Green Guardians volunteering programme delivered over **10,000 hours** in Years 1 and 2



Almost **24,000 trees** planted across the city in 2022 plus over **13,500 flowering bulbs.**

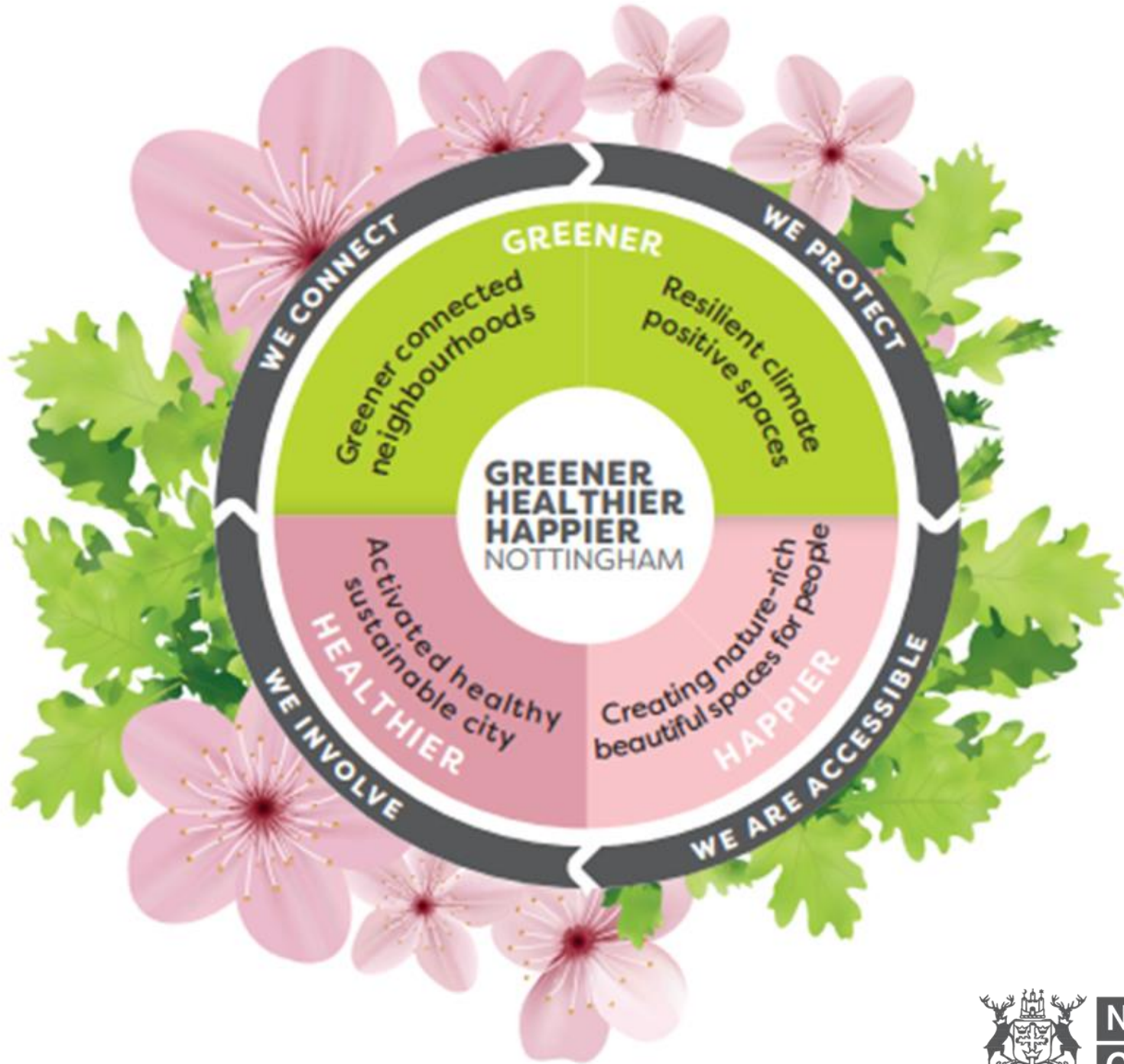
Engaged with over **300** registered volunteers and green groups with **600** planned activities delivered

**Winner** of APSE Best Parks and Green Spaces Service team of the Year (21/22)

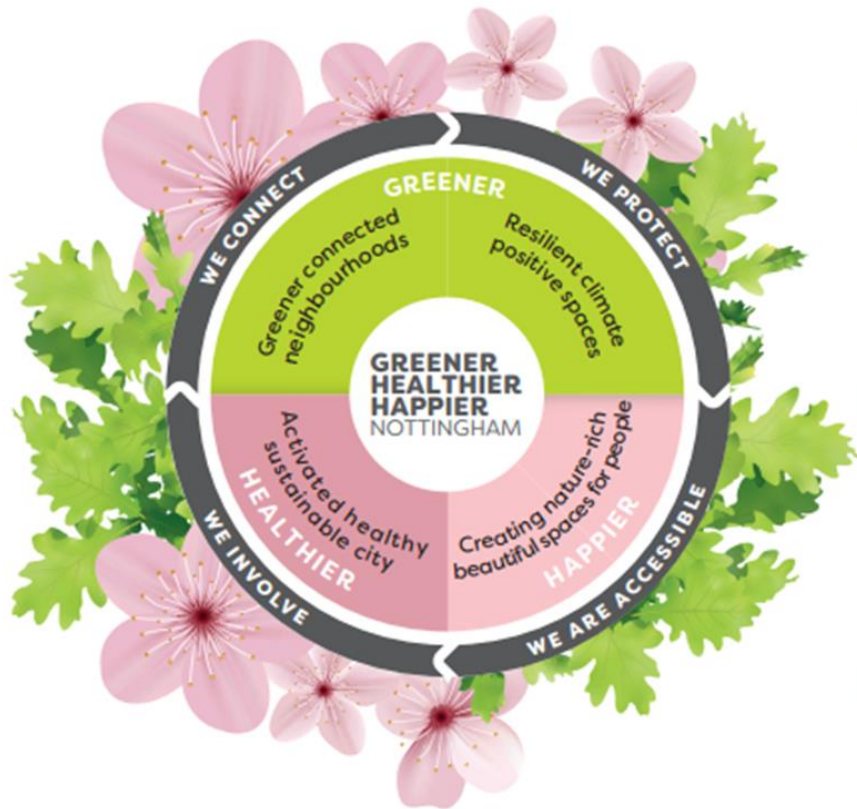
Increased annual local production nursery growing to over **900,000 plants**

5 pioneering Tiny Forests planted with EarthWatch delivered as well as 2 Blossom Together projects with the National Trust





# Our Vision, Mission and Values



## GREENER

Over a fifth of Nottingham is dedicated green space. And we strive for more. With nature in mind, we will support wildlife to thrive, joining spaces to benefit our people and the city ecosystem.

**WE WILL** be proud of a rich, resilient and connected open and green space network that in turn, protects the planet.

## HEALTHIER

Nature-rich beautiful spaces are vital for our mental and physical well-being.

**WE WILL** continue to provide areas for rest & reflection immersing our citizens in diverse green and open spaces whilst enabling movement around our city through vibrant green corridors on foot or on two wheels.

## HAPPIER

Our open and green spaces bring us together and connect us.

**WE WILL** continue to share ownership of them to give us a common purpose. These spaces are active and well-used, welcoming people from across our communities to play, socialise, participate & partner in looking after, improving & enjoying our city.



# GREENER, CONNECTED NEIGHBOURHOODS

Nottingham will have grown by 5% over the next 20 years. A focus on environmental justice will provide for increasing demand.

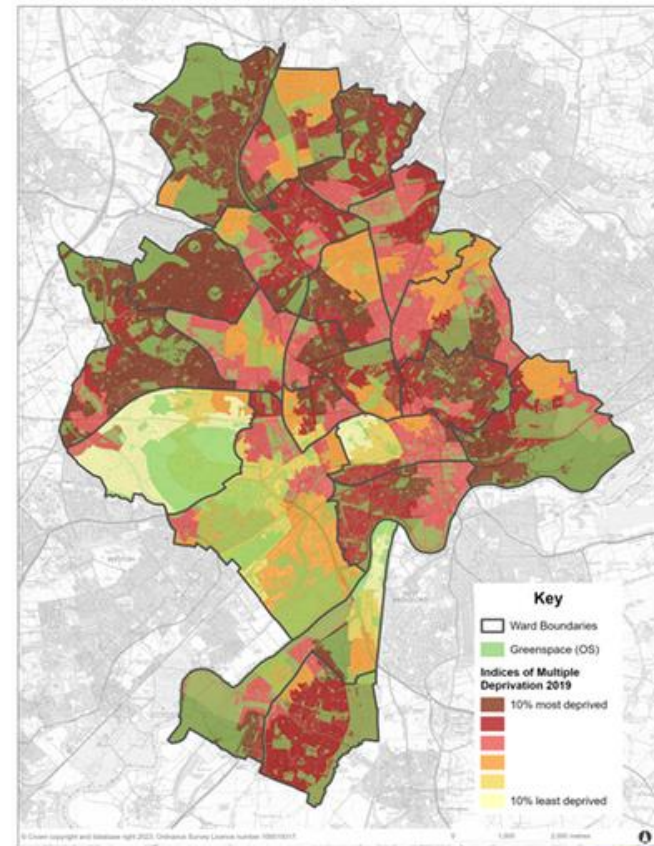
We are working towards the Natural England Urban Greening Factor Standard target of 40% - (Nottingham currently at 38.1%).

Green in 15 - better connected green spaces will provide greater access and extend the environmental benefits for people, nature and wildlife.

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Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2019)



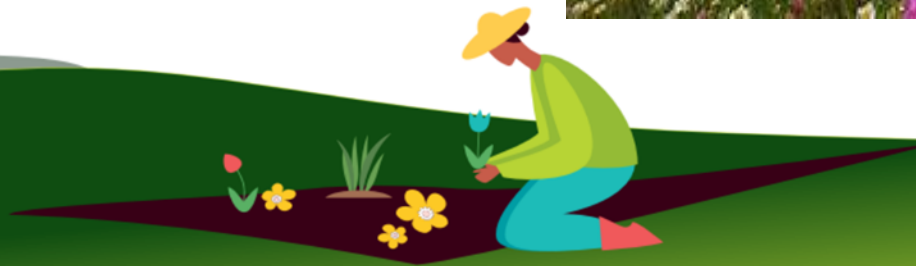
Nottingham  
City Council



# BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

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- Now statutory duty for all LA's
- Nature Friendly developments seeking to achieve at least 10% net gain
- Ncc taking a whole council approach to delivery
- Biodiversity SPD



# RESILIENT CLIMATE POSITIVE PLACES

Nottingham City Council declared a climate and ecological emergency in 2019 - our green spaces contribute to mitigating the impacts of climate change.



Nottingham's green spaces are an important part of the city's air pollution and flood protection measures. Our soils, trees and plants absorb carbon and rainfall.



Nottingham's green spaces and trees provide shade and cooling during the summer months. Our Tree & Woodland strategy will support the targeted increase of tree canopy cover.



Same city, same day, same time: two different streets.



# AN ACTIVATED HEALTHY SUSTAINABLE CITY

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Nottingham's open and green spaces provide nature connectedness for people.

Sustaining our open and green spaces helps people stay healthy, mentally and physically.

Consolidating partnerships with Public Health and Green Social prescribing connects people most at risk of health inequality to nature.

Food growing can happen in allotments and edible plantings in parks, urban orchards, open-access gardens, school gardens, and in street planters.



# CREATING NATURE-RICH, BEAUTIFUL SPACES FOR PEOPLE

Volunteers are vital in co-creating and maintaining nature-rich beautiful spaces generating valuable skills and experiences. By developing new activities and experiences we move to a more inclusive and socially progressive model.

In undertaking the research for this strategy new thinking has been explored especially around play i.e. Make Space for Girls and Child Friendly Nottingham.

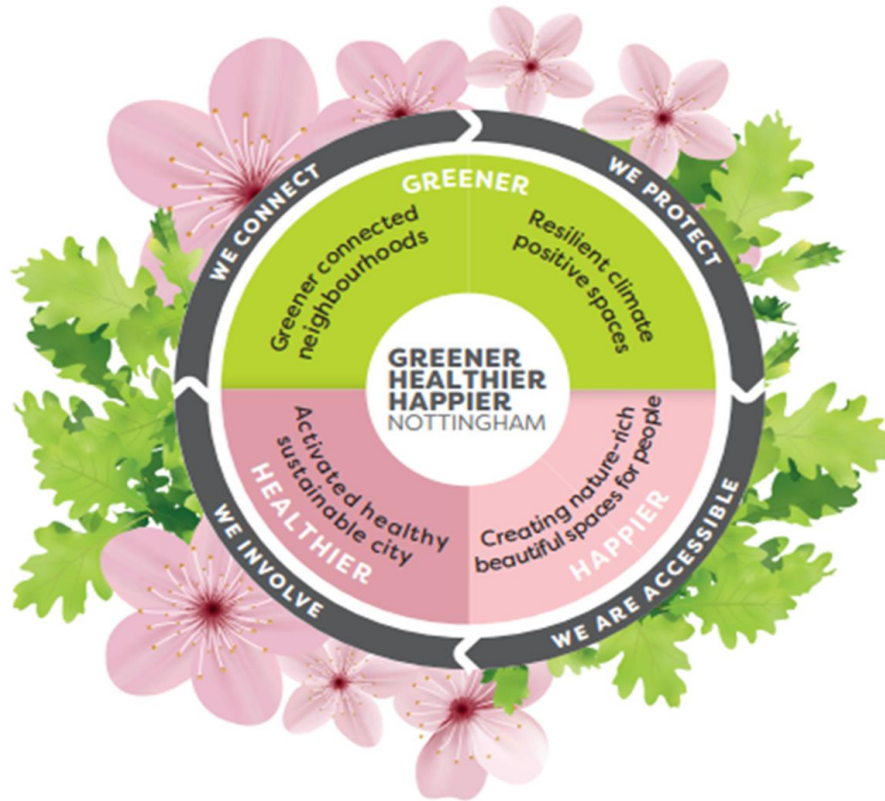
More effective consultation and participation will make our spaces more relevant, accessible and future-proof.



ANY QUESTIONS?

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# THANK YOU



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**Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee  
5 June 2024**

**Work Programme**

**Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To consider the Committee's work programme for 2024/25 based on areas of work identified by the Committee at previous committee meetings and any issues raised at this meeting.

**2 Action required**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the work that is currently planned for the the municipal year 2024/25 and make amendments to this programme as appropriate.

**3 Background information**

- 3.1 The Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee has been established to carry out the statutory overview and scrutiny functions in relation to matters affecting local communities and the environment including community protection, environmental health, community safety, sport, culture, tourism, waste and cleansing, energy and the environment. This includes:
- a) holding local decision-makers, including the Council's Executive and relevant Boards of the Council's group of companies, to account for their decisions, actions, performance and management of risk
  - b) reviewing existing policies and strategies of the Council and other local decision-makers where they impact on Nottingham citizens
  - c) contributing to the development of new policies and strategies of the Council and other local decision-makers where they impact on Nottingham citizens
  - d) exploring any matters affecting Nottingham and/or its citizens
  - e) make reports and recommendations to relevant local agencies with respect to the delivery of their functions, including the Council and its Executive
  - f) reviewing decisions made but not yet implemented by the Council's Executive in accordance with the Call-in Procedure.

- 3.2 The Committee is responsible for setting and managing its own work programme to fulfil this role. This work programme must have a clear link to its roles and responsibilities and take into account the resources available to deliver it.
- 3.3 In setting a programme for scrutiny activity, the Committee should make sure that each item included on the programme has clear objectives and desired outcomes from its work that add value to the improvement of the Council. Once items have been identified, the scheduling of those items should be timely; sufficiently flexible so that issues which arise as the year progresses can be considered appropriately; and reflect the resources available to support the Committee's work. It is recommended that there is a maximum of two substantive items scheduled for each committee meeting.
- 3.4 The current work programme for the municipal year 2024/25 is attached. There is space for further items to be added to later meetings. This is because some potential issues require further scoping and consideration as to the appropriate timing – once this has been done they will be proposed for scheduling accordingly – and this also allows for flexibility to accommodate issues that arise as the year progresses.
- 3.5 At this meeting the Committee is asked to review its work programme and make amendments to this programme as appropriate.

#### **4 List of attached information**

- 4.1 Communities and Environment Work Programme 2024/25
- 4.2 Scrutiny Prioritisation Process

#### **5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

- 5.1 None

#### **6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

- 6.1 Nottingham City Council Constitution

#### **7 Wards affected**

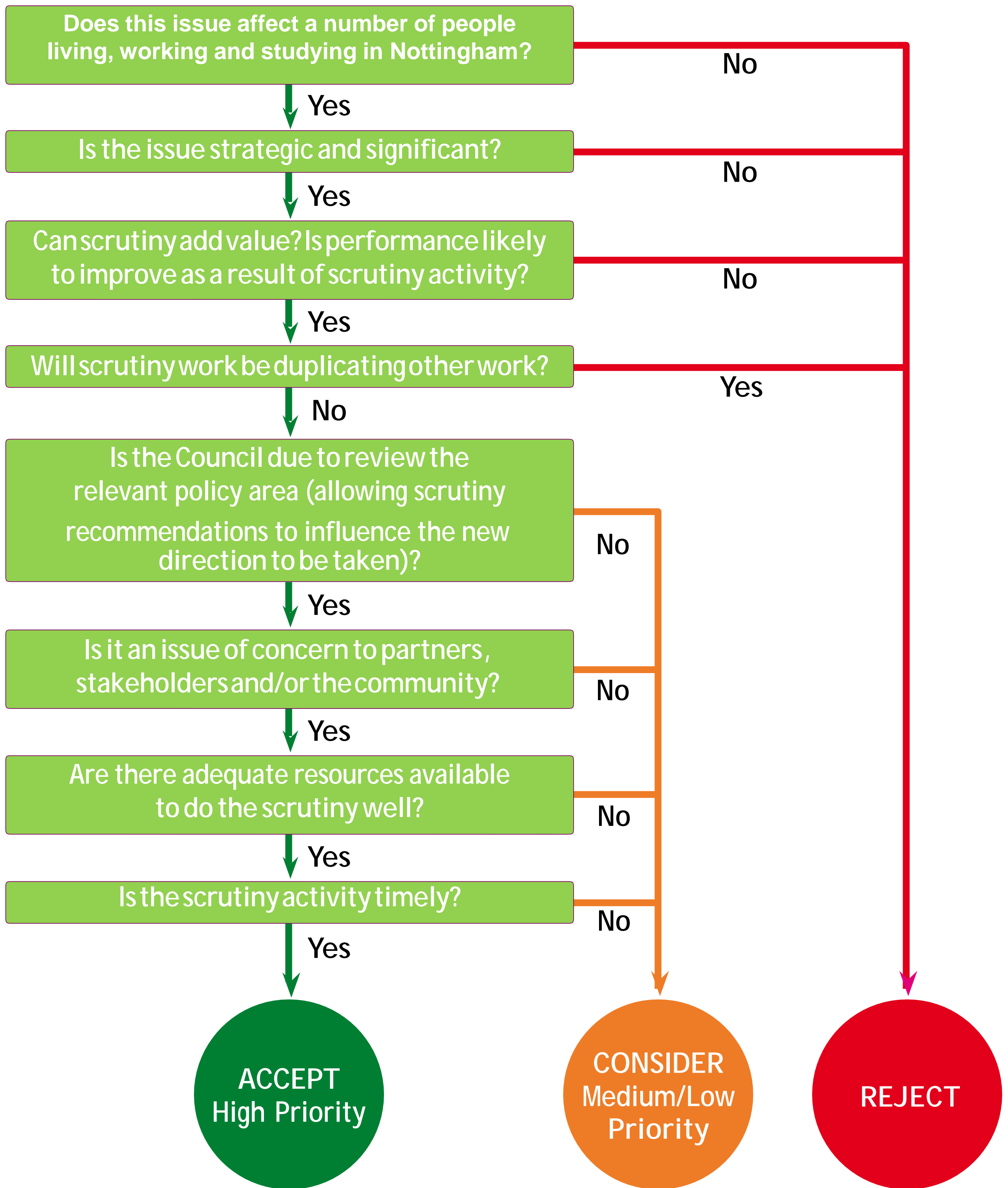
- 7.1 All

#### **8 Contact information**

- 8.1 Kate Morris, Scrutiny and Audit Support Officer  
[Kate.morris@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.morris@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)



# Nottingham City Council Scrutiny Prioritisation Process



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## Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee 2024/25 Work Programme

Date	Items
<p><b>5 June 2024</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Appointment of Vice Chair</b></li> <li>• <b>Green Space Strategy</b> To consider the development of the Green Strategy, the consultation undertaken, and planed with interested and relevant groups and feed into the development of the Strategy</li> <li>• <b>Ukraine Resettlement Programme</b> To consider the work undertaken by the Council to resettle Ukrainian refugees into the city and how the next 12 months will progress.</li> <li>• <b>Future Meeting Dates</b></li> <li>• <b>Work Programme 2024/25 and Recommendation Tracker</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>3 July 2024</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Museum Service Review</b> Following the completion of the Government Prescribed DMA process to receive an update on the review of museum services, scrutinise proposals following staff consultation and consider implications for citizens accessing the services.</li> <li>• <b>Streets for People</b> To consider the work of the Streets for People Programme, assess lessons learned and look ahead to potential funding and projects for phase 2.</li> <li>• <b>Work Programme 2024/25 and Recommendation Tracker</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>4 September 2024</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Centre Review</b> To consider and scrutinise the proposals for achieving savings set out in the 24/25 budget.</li> <li>• <b>Library Services</b></li> </ul>

Date	Items
	<p>To consider proposals for the service drawn up following the 24/25 budget process and on completion of public consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Heat Network Review</b> To receive and the outcome of the Review into the Heat Network Options and approve recommendations made by the review panel to the Portfolio Holder ahead of formal decision making by the Executive.</li> <li>• <b>Work Programme 2024/25 and Recommendation Tracker</b></li> </ul>
6 November 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Waste Strategy Implementation</b> To consider the implementation of the waste strategy, to look at lessons learned since implementation, how impactful work around recycling contamination has been. Garden waste scheme review year 1.</li> <li>• <b>Centralised Enforcement Model</b> To consider the restructure of enforcement teams, following staff consultation, and scrutinise how these changes will impact citizens and services.</li> <li>• <b>Work Programme 2024/25 and Recommendation Tracker</b></li> </ul>
8 January 2025 (Single item only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Impact of the Proposed 2025/26 Budget on Communities &amp; Environment</b> To scrutinise the likely impact of the proposed budget on services within the Communities, Environment and Residents Directorate</li> <li>• <b>Work Programme 2024/25 and Recommendation Tracker</b></li> </ul>
5 March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Safety Partnership</b> To review the performance of the Community Safety Partnership, fulfilling the Committee's statutory duty and consider the focus of the strategy refresh. A statutory report that must be received no less than once in every 12 month period</li> <li>• <b>Prevent Agenda</b> To review how changes to Home Office funding streams may impact the Prevent agenda at a local level</li> </ul>

Date	Items
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="568 212 1473 244">• <b>Work Programme 2025/26 and Recommendation Tracker</b></li> </ul>

**Additional Items to consider for scheduling**

- **Health and Safety / Environmental health annual plan**  
To review the performance of our commercial and environmental regulation services including CPOs, Food Hygiene, Licensing and environmental health, the challenges the services are facing and the impact these services have on the Council's revenue budgets
- **Green Space Maintenance**  
To review the policy approach to green space maintenance and development of city-wide core offer
- **Protect Agenda**  
Consider how Nottingham City is preparing for/implementing new measures, the impact these will have on budgets looking to 26/27
- **CN28 – annual performance against targets**  
To review the Council's performance against the pledge to become carbon neutral by 2028 and to consider how these may have changed in response to the Best Value Review.

**Reviews:**

- **Heat Network Options**  
Review agreed at the March 2024 Committee meeting to consider options for the future of the heat network and make any recommendations identified to the Portfolio Holder prior to the formal decision making process.

**Informal Briefings:**

- **Bereavement Services – June 2024**  
To receive information on the services, fees and charges of the Bereavement Services in order to consider further scrutiny.
- **CN28 response to BVR report and update on targets – October 2024**  
At the April 2024 the Committee requested an informal briefing on the response to the BVR and on the progress towards the CN28 targets.

DRAFT