

Public Document Pack



Nottingham City Council

The City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee

Date: Friday, 7 June 2024

Time: 10.00 am

Place: Council Chamber - Rushcliffe Borough Council, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7YG

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

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Director for Legal and Governance

Governance Officer: Phil Wye, Nottingham City Council **Direct Dial:** 0115 876 4637

- | | | |
|----------|--|----------------|
| 1 | Welcome and Introductions | |
| 2 | Introduction from Councillor Neghat Khan as new Leader of Nottingham City Council and incoming Chair of the Economic Prosperity Committee | |
| 3 | Introduction of Claire Ward, East Midlands Mayor | |
| 4 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 5 | Declarations of Interest | |
| 6 | Minutes and Actions Arising | 3 - 6 |
| | To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2024. | |
| 7 | Appointments to East Midlands Combined County Authority Committees | 7 - 24 |
| | Joint report of Adam Hill, Mansfield District Council and Jodie Townsend, East Midlands Combined County Authority | |
| 8 | Nottinghamshire & Nottingham Local Nature Recovery Strategy. | 25 - 34 |
| | Report of David Arnold, Head of Planning and Environment, Nottinghamshire County Council | |

9 Any Other Business

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.

Citizens are advised that this meeting may be recorded, including by members of the public. Any recording or reporting on this meeting should take place in accordance with the Council's policy on recording and reporting on public meetings, which is available at www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk. Individuals intending to record the meeting are asked to notify the Governance Officer shown above in advance.

Nottingham City Council

The City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at Loxley House, Nottingham on 5 April 2024 from 9.32 am - 10.20 am

Membership

Present

Councillor David Mellen (Chair)
Executive Mayor Andy Abrahams
Councillor Lee Brazier (substitute)
Councillor Neil Clarke MBE
Councillor Bruce Laughton (substitute)
Councillor James Naish
Councillor Milan Radulovic MBE
Councillor Matthew Relf

Absent

Councillor Ben Bradley
Councillor John Clarke MBE
Councillor Paul Peacock

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

David Armiger	- Chief Executive, Bassetlaw District Council
Craig Bonar	- Executive Director for Transformation, Ashfield District Council
Zulfiqar Darr	- Deputy Chief Executive, Broxtowe Borough Council
Adam Hill	- Chief Executive, Mansfield District Council
Mike Hill	- Chief Executive, Gedling Borough Council
Theresa Hodgkinson	- Chief Executive, Ashfield District Council
Katherine Marriott	- Chief Executive, Rushcliffe Borough Council
John Robinson	- Chief Executive, Newark and Sherwood District Council
Sajeeda Rose	- Corporate Director for Growth and City Development, Nottingham City Council
Adrian Smith	- Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council
Jodie Townsend	- East Midlands Combined Authority

7 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Ben Bradley, Councillor Paul Peacock, Councillor John Clarke, and Nicki Jenkins.

8 Declarations of Interests

None.

9 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

10 East Midlands Combined County Authority: Delegation as nominating body and request for nominations

Adam Hill, Chief Executive, Mansfield District Council, and Jodie Townsend, East Midlands Mayoral County Combined Authority, presented the report seeking the acceptance of the Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC) of the designation provided by the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) for it to be the nominating body for Nottinghamshire District and Borough Council Non-Constituent Members to the Combined County Authority.

If accepted this would make the Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC) responsible for the appointment of District and Borough Council representatives at the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) Board and its wider Committees.

During the discussion and in response to questions from the Committee, the following points were made:

- (a) the wider Committees that have been established on Transport, Skills and Employment, and Investment have been selected as they reflect the main areas of devolutionary powers. Planning and Housing sit with the EMCCA Board itself but it can establish further Committees if agreed;
- (b) an Innovation Committee was also agreed recently but this has not been formally established by the EMCCA Board;
- (a) the Committee discussed appointments to the committees reflecting political balance. However, they will need to have appointees with the right skillsets and be geographically spread so as not to overload officers in certain councils. This could be difficult to arrange due to the relatively small number of members required, and should be brought back to a future meeting for decision;
- (b) the Audit and Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be politically balanced.

Councillor Milan Radulovic proposed an additional recommendation to the Committee to recommend to the EMCCA Board that Housing and Planning, and Environment be added to their Committee structure, as these are areas that are very important to the local residents of the area. District and Borough Councils, and the City Council, are responsible for these areas on an operational level, but these Committees could provide a strategic oversight for the EMCCA region. This proposal was put to a vote.

Resolved to

- (1) accept the designation provided by East Midlands Combined County Authority to be the nominating body for Nottinghamshire District and Borough Council Non-Constituent Members to the Combined County Authority;**
- (2) agree that the current representatives as set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report are the representatives nominated to the EMCCA Board until May**

2025, at which point the representatives are reviewed through the selection process;

- (3) defer agreement that the process detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be adopted as a selection process for nominations to EMCCA Board from May 2025 to a future meeting, pending further discussion;**
- (4) defer making nominations and substitute nominations to the East Midlands Combined County Authority wider committees in alignment with paragraph 3.8 of the report to a future meeting pending further discussion;**
- (5) note the arrangements for appointment, disqualification, dismissal of Non-Constituent members to EMCCA as detailed in Part 5 of the EMCCA Constitution and attached as Appendix 2;**
- (6) resolved to recommend to the EMCCA Board that Housing and Planning, and Environment be directly reflected within the EMCCA Committee structure as Committees in their own right.**

Reasons for decisions:

- To accept the designation provided by the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) to be the nominating body for Nottinghamshire District and Borough Council Non-Constituent Members to the Combined County Authority.
- This would make the Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC) responsible for the appointment of District and Borough Council representatives at the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) Board and its wider Committees.

Other options considered:

- EMCCA considered a wide range of membership possibilities when drafting the initial version of its constitution, however its commitment to inclusivity of District and Borough Councils given their position as key partners ruled out options that did not include District and Borough Council representation in its governance framework.

11 Any Other Business

The Committee noted that Councillor David Mellen is stepping down as Leader of Nottingham City Council and thanked him for his commitment to the Committee's work during his tenure.

12 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting date and venue will be arranged between officers for an appropriate Friday morning, and communicated to Committee Members.

This page is intentionally left blank

City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire**Economic Prosperity Committee**

7 June 2024

Subject:	Appointments to East Midlands Combined County Authority Committees				
Presenting authority / representative:	Adam Hill, Mansfield District Council Jodie Townsend, East Midlands Combined County Authority				
Report author and contact details:	Adam Hill: ahill@mansfield.gov.uk Jodie Townsend: Jodie.Townsend@eastmidsdevo.org.uk				
Other colleagues who have provided input:	District 7 Borough Authorities East Midlands Combined County Authority Board				
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Subject to call-in	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Value of decision: N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital				
Authorities affected: All Nottinghamshire Districts and Boroughs	Date of consultation with relevant authorities: N/A				
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/constituent authorities): The establishment of the East Midlands Mayoral County Combined Authority (EMCCA) will require non-constituent members from the District and Borough councils to be selected and appointed.					
Exempt information: Not applicable					
Recommendation(s): Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee is recommended to:					
1	Agree the nominations and substitutes to the committees of the East Midlands Combined County Authority as set out in Appendix A				
2	Agree how EPC will provide nominations and substitutes to the committees of the East Midlands Combined County Authority that are not covered by Appendix A				

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 To support district and borough councils in their understanding of the ask from EMCCA and ensure the right representatives are brought forward for nomination.
- 1.2 To agree the approval of outstanding non-constituent nominations to EMCCA committees in alignment with current EMCCA requirements.
- 1.3 To ensure that district and borough councils have formal representation at EMCCA.

2. Background

- 2.1 EMCCA came into being on 28 February 2024 and held its first Board meeting on the 20 March 2024. At its inaugural Board meeting the EMCCA Board considered a number of procedural items to enable it to be able to operate as an effective organisation, this included statutory officer appointments and adoption of a constitution.
- 2.2 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 allows for Combined County Authorities to designate a nominating body for the purposes of nominating Non-Constituent Members of a Combined County Authority, on condition that those ~~Page~~ generating bodies accept that designation.

2.3 On 20 March EMCCA agreed to designate to Nottingham EPC the position as the nominating body for Nottinghamshire District and Borough Non-Constituent appointments.

2.4 The EPC accepted the designation at its meeting on 5 April 2024 and also agreed the elected members and substitute appointments to the EMCCA Board.

3. Appointments to EMCCA Committees

3.1 EMCCA has recently agreed an initial governance framework that is needed to undertake its statutorily defined functions. This consists of the following:

- EMCCA Board (the Mayor and Cabinet)
- Transport Advisory Committee
- Skills and Employment Advisory Committee
- Investment Committee
- Business Advisory Board
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Audit and Governance Committee.

3.2 EMCCA is seeking, from the EPC, nominations to the committees it has agreed (as a 'Day 1' minimum) are necessary to meet its legal and operational requirements, those being:

- Transport Advisory Committee
- Skills and Employment Advisory Committee
- Investment Committee
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Audit and Governance Committee.

3.3 As with nominations to the EMCCA Board, it is for the EPC to formally approve members to EMCCA governance arrangements as designated. However, it is for district and borough councils to bring forward those nominations.

3.4 At the meeting on 5 April the EPC tasked officers with undertaking engagement with all Nottinghamshire District and Borough Councils to bring forward a list of nominations for consideration to this meeting for consideration and approval.

3.5 Officers applied a number of key principles to this process to take into account concerns raised by both EPC and by EMCCA, these were as follows:

- That all District and Borough Councils be represented on appointments to EMCCA with at least 1 position
- Once each council gets 1 seat the remainder of required nominations are allocated according to preference/expertise with no council having more than 2 seats on the overall list of nominations
- That positions be allocated to appropriate skillsets in alignment with the EMCCA guidance where possible
- Given the complexity of working out political balance requirements across a county area it is suggested that overall nominations take into account the political leadership of each District and Borough Council and appropriately reflect this make up in nominations

3.6 Set out at **Appendix A** is a list of elected members nominated to EMCCA committees to be considered and approved by EPC and meets the requirements as set out in 3.5 and in line with the Guidance in **Appendix B**.

3.7 To support this process EMCCA provided a guidance note that sets out key considerations that it would like the nominating bodies to consider when nominating to EMCCA Committees. The guidance note is attached as **Appendix B**. This guidance has been designed and developed to support EPC members to bring forward the right representatives and is to be used for information and discussion at this stage.

3.8 It is a matter for each nominating body as to how they apply the guidance provided, however it should be noted that the guidance is provided in the spirit of partnership and to deliver effective district and borough representation at EMCCA.

- 3.9 Any councillor nominated to EMCCA committees should expect to receive an appropriate induction into EMCCA governance arrangements and the role and responsibilities of the governance body which they have been nominated to.
- 3.10 In accordance with good governance anyone nominated, must not be part of the executive and therefore must not either be a member or substitute of the EMCCA Board. Therefore if the nominations in Appendix A are accepted, Mayor Andy Abrahams (Mansfield District Council) , will stand down from his position of Substitute to the EMCCA Board.
- 3.11 EMCCA is in the process of pulling together its calendar of meetings for 2024/25, the next meeting of the EMCCA Board will on 17 June to take account of each Constituent Council's Annual General Meeting. It is anticipated that the calendar of meetings for EMCCA will be approved at this June meeting.

4. Other options considered in making recommendations

- 4.1 EMCCA considered a wide range of membership possibilities when drafting the initial version of its constitution, however its commitment to inclusivity of District and Borough Councils given their position as key partners ruled out options that did not include District and Borough Council representation in its governance framework.

5. Consideration of Risk

- 5.1 In order to ensure appropriate representation of District and Borough Councils in Nottinghamshire on East Midlands Combined County Authority, nominations as requested will need to be made by the Economic Prosperity Committee.
- 5.2 The guidance provided by East Midlands Combined County Authority at Appendix B of this report, if not considered could impact the diversity and geographical representation of Nottinghamshire.

6. Best Value Considerations, including consideration of Make or Buy where appropriate

- 6.1 No best value considerations have been identified in the content of this report.

7. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

- 7.1 Guidance on allowances for District and Borough Council representatives on East Midlands Combined County Authority Board and Committees will be provided following the Independent Remuneration Panel review.

8. Legal colleague comments

- 8.1 Legal implications are included in the body of the report

9. Other relevant comments

- 9.1 The Combined County Authority has three types of membership outside the position of mayor, these are as follows:
- **Constituents:** These are the 4 local authorities which the devolution of powers outside of mayoral functions have been devolved to (Derbyshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Derby City Council and Nottingham City Council). These are voting members of the EMCCA Board.
 - **Non-Constituents:** These are key partners/ stakeholders recognised within the EMCCA governance arrangements. They are defined as an individual nominated as a representative by a nominating body designated as such by the CCA in accordance with section 11 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023. Non-Constituents are non-voting members across the EMCCA governance arrangements.
 - **Associates:** an individual appointed to be a member of the CCA in accordance with section 12 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023

- 9.2 District and Borough Council representatives come under the definition of Non-Constituents; it should be noted that they are not the only grouping that would come under this definition.
- 9.3 The East Midlands Combined County Authority 2024 Regulations allow the Combined County Authority to have no more than eight non-constituent and associate members on its Board. This allows the Combined County Authority to appoint up to a maximum total number of 8 Non-Constituent Members and Associate Members.

10. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No

Yes

11. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

Has the data protection impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No

Yes

12. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

Has the carbon impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No

Yes

13. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

- 13.1 EMCCA Governance and Constitution Board Paper:
[Item 5 - Governance and Constitution Report.pdf \(derbyshire.gov.uk\)](#)

- 13.2 EMCCA Constitution:
[Item 5 - Appendix A.pdf \(derbyshire.gov.uk\)](#)

14. Appendices

- 14.1 Appendix A – Elected Members nominated to EMCCA Committees
- 14.2 Appendix B – EMCCA Guidance Note for appointments by nominating bodies
- 14.3 Appendix C – EMCCA FAQs

Appendix A

East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA)

District and Borough Councils - Sub Group Nomination Form

Sub Group	Purpose	Nomination Name	Reserve lower priority Name
Transport Advisory Committee	This is an advisory committee to the Combined County Authority and the Mayor; it seeks to provide strategy advice and guidance on Transport matters in support of the exercise of Combined County Authority and Mayoral functions.	Cllr Paul Peacock – Leader N&SDC Cllr Mathew Relf, Cabinet Member Regeneration and Planning Ashfield DC	Cllr David Pidwell - Bassetlaw Cllr Peter Bales Broxtowe
Skills & Employment Advisory Committee	This is an advisory committee to the Combined County Authority and the Mayor; it seeks to provide strategy advice and guidance on Skills and Employment matters in support of the exercise of Combined County Authority and Mayoral functions.	Cllr Gabriella Bunn Broxtowe Cllr Jo White Deputy Leader Bassetlaw	Cllr Matthew Spoores N&SDC Cllr Mathew Relf, Ashfield
Investment Committee	This is an advisory committee to the Combined County Authority and the Mayor; it seeks to provide strategy advice and guidance on Investment matters in support of the exercise of Combined County Authority and Mayoral functions.	Cllr John Clarke Gedling Cllr Neil Clarke, Leader RBC	Craig Whitby Mansfield Cllr Greg Marshall Broxtowe
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	This is a regulatory committee of the Combined County Authority; these are Committees that the Combined County Authority must have by law.	Mayor Andy Abrahams MDC Cllr Abby Brennan, Dep Leader RBC	Only 2 nominations
Audit & Governance Committee	This is a regulatory committee of the Combined County Authority; these are Committees that the Combined County Authority must have by law.	Paul Henshaw (MDC) Vacant	Only the one nomination

Appendix B
Guidance Note

Appointments by Nominating Bodies

East Midlands Combined County Authority

May 2024

This guidance note has been developed to provide guidance to designated nominating bodies to the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) on the nomination of Councillors from District and Borough Councils to the Board and wider Committees of the Combined County Authority.

The guidance provided is intended as such, recognising that the decision on how and who to nominate is a matter for each designated nominating body. However, the guidance provided seeks to support the nomination of individuals that can best represent the District and Boroughs of each County area and contribute effectively within the Combined County Authority governance arrangements.

Background

1 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 allows for Combined County Authorities to designate a nominating body for the purposes of nominating Non-Constituent Members of a Combined County Authority, on condition that those nominating bodies accept that designation.

2 On 20 March the Combined County Authority agreed to designate the positions of nominating body for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire District and Borough Non-Constituent appointments to:

- Derbyshire Strategic Leadership Board (D2 SLB)
- Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC)

3 The nominations by the nominating bodies to the Combined County Authority would be for District and Borough Councillor representation.

4 Officers from the County Councils, District and Borough Councils and the Combined County Authority have contributed to this guidance note.

Requirement

5 The Combined County Authority has agreed an initial governance framework that provides 4 District and Borough nominated representatives on its Board and on each of its Committees, 2 from each county area. In accepting the designation provided by the Combined County Authority each nominating body is requested to provide the nominations to the Combined County Authority Board and its Committees.

6 The ask from the Combined County Authority is that each nominating body provides 2 representatives to be non-constituent members to each of the following Combined County Authority Board and Committees:

Combined County Authority Board	This is the decision-making body for all non-mayoral functions devolved to the Combined County Authority. It is responsible for the approval of all Combined County Authority strategy and the budget.
Transport Advisory Committee	This is an advisory committee to the Combined County Authority and the Mayor; it seeks to provide strategy advice and guidance on Transport matters in support of the exercise of Combined County Authority and Mayoral functions.
Skills & Employment Advisory Committee	This is an advisory committee to the Combined County Authority and the Mayor; it seeks to provide strategy advice and guidance on Skills and Employment matters in support of the exercise of Combined County Authority and Mayoral functions.

Investment Committee	This is an advisory committee to the Combined County Authority and the Mayor; it seeks to provide strategy advice and guidance on Investment matters in support of the exercise of Combined County Authority and Mayoral functions.
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	This is a regulatory committee of the Combined County Authority; these are Committees that the Combined County Authority must have by law.
Audit & Governance Committee	This is a regulatory committee of the Combined County Authority; these are Committees that the Combined County Authority must have by law.

7 The nominations by EPC and D2 SLB to these Combined County Authority governance bodies are for non-constituent membership.

8 Non-constituent members are individual members of the Combined County Authority who are nominated as members by a body designated by the Combined County Authorities, therefore they are nominated to represent a group or organisation. Non-constituent members are non-voting unless the voting members resolve otherwise.

9 Non-constituent members play a key role within the Combined County Authority governance framework in ensuring the bodies/ organisations that they represent are able to influence the agenda, decision-making, investment proposals and strategy developments.

Guidance for Nominations

10 The following guidance exists to support nominating bodies in the process of nominating to Combined County Authority positions.

11 It is a matter for each nominating body as to how they apply the guidance provided, however it should be noting that the guidance is provided in the spirit of partnership and to deliver effective District and Borough representation at the Combined County Authority.

Skillsets and Knowledge

12 Having an appropriate skillset and knowledge base that fits the role and responsibilities of each governance body will allow nominated individuals to play a more effective role within the body they have been nominated to and represent EPC or D2 SLB more effectively.

13 Individuals nominated need to understand the strategic nature of a Combined County Authority, as its focus will be on taking a region wide approach that benefits the region as a whole. Nominated individuals therefore need to be able to take a County wide approach to representing their nominating body rather than the local authority that they represent.

14 Individuals will benefit from having the appropriate thematic area knowledge to effectively represent, communicate, collaborate and understand regional aspirations and objectives.

15 Guidance is therefore provided as follows when making appointments:

Combined County Authority Board	Nominated individuals should be Leaders of District and Borough Councils who would generally have a good understanding of organisational responsibility as it relates to vision, strategic objectives and representation of an organisation. They should have an ability to represent their nominating body (and wider Council Leaders) on matters of strategic policy to the Combined County Authority, and are able to effectively liaise with key individuals on behalf of their nominating body to ensure that they effectively represent that nominating bodies views.
--	--

	<p>In representing the nominating body at the key decision-making Board of the Combined County Authority the individual would benefit from an ability to provide political leadership in a collective responsibility setting that seeks to take decisions based on consensus.</p>
Transport Advisory Committee	<p>The preference is that nominated individuals should be Lead Members for Transport and/or Place (or appropriate alternative such as backbencher with specialist knowledge) who will have a good understanding of regional strategic transport needs and understand terminology and approaches that cover public transport provision, highways and wider transport matters.</p> <p>An understanding of the purpose of the Local Transport Plan, sustainable transport, bus travel, rail and transport connectivity would be beneficial.</p> <p>They should have an ability to represent their nominating body (and wider Council Leaders) on matters of strategic transport policy to the Combined County Authority, and are able to effectively liaise with key individuals on behalf of their nominating body to ensure that they effectively represent that nominating bodies views.</p>
Skills & Employment Advisory Committee	<p>The preference is that nominated individuals should be Lead Members for employment, skills and adult learning, or economic growth (or appropriate alternative such as backbencher with specialist knowledge) who will have a good understanding of regional strategic need and understand terminology and approaches that cover public transport provision, highways and wider transport matters.</p> <p>An understanding of the purpose of a regional skills strategy, adult education, employment schemes and a Local Skills Improvement Plan would be beneficial.</p> <p>They should have an ability to represent their nominating body (and wider Council Leaders) on matters of strategic skills and employment policy to the Combined County Authority, and are able to effectively liaise with key individuals on behalf of their nominating body to ensure that they effectively represent that nominating bodies views.</p>
Investment Committee	<p>The preference is that nominated individuals should be Lead Members for Finance, or Economic Growth (or appropriate alternative such as backbencher with specialist knowledge) who will have a good understanding of regional strategic need and understand terminology and approaches that cover the development, decision-making and delivery of investment programmes and projects</p> <p>An understanding of Assurance Frameworks, Her Majesty's Treasury Green Book requirements and the process for the developing and approval of business cases would be beneficial.</p> <p>They should have an ability to represent their nominating body (and wider Council Leaders) on matters of strategic investment to the Combined County Authority, and are able to effectively liaise with key individuals on behalf of their nominating body to ensure that they effectively represent that nominating bodies views.</p>
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	<p>The preference is that nominated individuals should be Chairs or experienced Members of Overview & Scrutiny Committees (or appropriate alternative if committee system) who will have a good understanding of the role of the scrutiny function in a strategic context and accountability standards and practices.</p>

	<p>An understanding of performance management, strategic policy development and holding decision-makers to account would be beneficial.</p> <p>They should have an ability to represent their nominating body (and wider Council Leaders) on matters of strategic accountability to the Combined County Authority, and are able to effectively liaise with key individuals on behalf of their nominating body to ensure that they effectively represent that nominating bodies views.</p>
Audit & Governance Committee	<p>The preference is that nominated individuals should be Chairs, past Chairs or experienced Audit Committee Members who will have a good understanding of local authority financial affairs, risk management, governance and Member standards and code of conduct.</p> <p>An understanding of an organisational approach to internal systems of control, the Nolan Principles that govern Member behaviour and constitutions would be beneficial.</p> <p>They should have an ability to represent their nominating body (and wider Council Leaders) on matters of audit, risk, governance and finance to the Combined County Authority, and are able to effectively liaise with key individuals on behalf of their nominating body to ensure that they effectively represent that nominating bodies views.</p>

16 Political balance applies to the regulatory committees (Overview and Scrutiny/ Audit and Governance), it may therefore be more difficult to apply guidance on skillsets to these positions when taking political balance into account.

17 The Combined County Authority will seek to provide appropriate induction to individuals nominated and support officers where appropriate to the above governance bodies, training as appropriate and ensure they are provided with appropriate briefings and information to enable them to fulfil their role.

18 It is a decision for each nominating body on how they plan to effectively utilise their nominated members to the Combined County Authority to ensure that they are providing a County wide approach and perspective.

Geography

19 Having an approach that considers geographical representation across the scope of its nominations to the Combined County Authority in order to ensure that both the North and South of each County is appropriately represented across nominations will provide a wider range of views and experiences to the Combined County Authority.

20 Given the number of positions that the Combined County Authority seeks nominations for, guidance is provided that all District and Borough Councils within each County area are represented in the nomination process and therefore receive at least 1 nominating position.

21 Based on geography, it is suggested that each council gets 1 seat and then the remainder of required nominations are divvied up according to preference/expertise with no council having more than 2 seats on the overall list of nominations to the Combined County Authority.

Diversity

22 To make the best possible decisions the Combined County Authority Board and Committees would benefit from having a diverse and inclusive leadership. Boards and committees made up of people with a mix of experience and skills gained from a range of backgrounds and lived experience that will bring fresh ideas, greater challenge and more robust decision making to the Combined County Authority.

23 Nominating bodies will want to consider nominations from those who are reflective of local communities in terms of gender, ethnicity, disability and sexuality who will be more equipped to understand our communities served.

24 It is important that our democratic organisations and public bodies strive to reflect the communities that they serve, and that we acknowledge the challenges and imbalances when they do not. Poor representation is a bad thing not just for those who are under-represented and suffer the consequences of a decision-making process that does not reflect their needs or interests, but for the institutions themselves. When they do not represent considerable parts of the population, they lose their legitimacy.

Political Balance

25 Political balance only applies to Combined County Authority appointments to its regulatory committees, and only to constituent council representation. Nevertheless, ensuring appropriate political representation across all nominations to the Combined County Authority will ensure an appropriate representation of political opinion and view from each county area.

26 Given the complexity of working out political balance requirements across a county area it is suggested that overall nominations take into account the political leadership of each District and Borough Council and appropriately reflect this make up in nominations.

27 For example, if 12 positions are available to nominate to the Combined County Authority, you could divide the number of nominations by the number of non-constituent councils and multiply this by the political leadership across all authorities to give an indicative balance.

28 For the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Audit and Governance Committee, nominations will need to take into account the political balance requirements that will be set out in each nominating body report.

Role Profiles

29 Those nominated to Combined County Authority Board and Committees on behalf of each nominating body are expected to represent the views and objectives of the nominating body above that of their individual local authority.

30 Each Councillor nominated should act within the scope given to them by the nominating body which on occasion may need to be clarified.

31 It is the responsibility of the individual nominated to ensure that the nominating body is informed of key decisions, strategy development and thematic areas for discussion at a Combined County Authority level and that the nominating body has an opportunity to consider representation that it would like that nominated councillor to make.

32 Nominated representatives should make themselves aware of what the Combined County Authority expects from them. In so doing, a representative may seek information in relation to the Combined County Authority Constitution, Committee Terms of Reference, accounts etc.

33 Nominated representatives are expected to operate within the rules and/or Constitution of the Combined County Authority and adhere to the Code of Conduct for the Combined County Authority and their own local authority. Representatives will not disclose any information that is confidential to the Combined County Authority who accept that such information may be required to be discussed in private session by a nominating body.

34 Nominated representatives are expected to attend meetings of the Combined County Authority to which appointed; to report on the activities of the Combined County Authority to the nominating body; the impact of those activities on the nominating body

35 Nominated representatives should take an active and informed role in the affairs of the Combined County Authority and in the appropriate representation of the nominating body;

36 Nominated representatives should make independent personal judgements in line with their Duty of Care to the Combined County Authority and the nominating body In so doing, to ensure that they are not

representing the views and political position of their own political party and/or local authority make representations and decisions that are in the best interests of the nominating body.

37 Nominated representatives should inform the nominating body and any specific local authority Leader when matters specifically relating to that county or their local authority are to be discussed at a future Combined County Authority meeting.

What is the Combined County Authority and how do District & Boroughs fit into its governance?

East Midlands Combined County Authority

May 2024

Purpose

This guidance note has been developed to provide District and Borough Councils across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire with key information on the East Midlands Combined County Authority.

What is devolution?

Regional devolution refers to the process by which specific powers and decision-making authority are transferred from central government to subnational regions within a country. It aims to empower local communities and enhance their ability to address regional needs and priorities.

It is not about taking powers away from local authorities that already exist, rather bringing powers to the region from central government to empower regions, fostering better local governance and responsiveness to regional concerns.

What is the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA)?

The East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) has been created as part of the devolution deal between the Government and the four upper tier councils of Derbyshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Derby City Council and Nottingham City Council.

EMCCA has been given powers, functions and funding worth £1.14 billion from the Government. It means that decisions about investment in our areas, which are currently taken by central government, will be made locally. However, it is estimated that the region will unlock around £4bn of funding over the coming years because of this devolution deal.

Local authorities still exist as individual councils but the new Combined County Authority, led by a new regional Mayor, will work with all councils across the area to deliver the best possible outcomes for the residents and businesses. There would also be opportunities for private, public, and voluntary sector organisations to contribute and have their voices heard

How does this differ from a Combined Authority?

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act creates a new type of combined authority for England. The new Combined County Authorities (CCAs) are designed for more rural areas, whereas the existing Combined Authorities (CA) typically cover metropolitan areas.

Combined County Authorities are made of Constituent Councils (upper tier authorities) who are called constituent members, and Non-Constituents such as district or borough councils who are key partners and play a key role in its ability to deliver.

A Mayor of the Combined County Authority

As part of the devolution deal, EMCCA must have a directly elected mayor. The Government believes a Mayor means clearer accountability over local powers, functions and funding.

A key part of the role is to act as an advocate and ~~liaison~~^{Page 20} Ambassador for the Combined County Authority area and the 2.2 million residents who live here.

The Mayor leads the Combined County Authority, working with partner councils, business representatives and stakeholders on areas like transport, housing, regeneration, employment and skills, economic investment and the net-zero ambition.

The Mayor's term of office will run for four years.

The Mayor is directly elected by residents in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Nottingham. The first election for a regional mayor is happening on Thursday 2 May.

What powers does EMCCA, and the Mayor have?

EMCCA has significant devolved powers and funding across several critical areas:

- **Transport:** Overseeing transportation infrastructure and connectivity.
- **Housing:** Addressing housing needs and development.
- **Skills and Adult Education:** Enhancing educational opportunities for adults.
- **Economic Development:** Promoting economic growth and job creation.
- **Net Zero:** Contributing to environmental sustainability

EMCCA is conferred with functions related to housing, regeneration, and planning. These include improving the supply and quality of housing in the area and securing the regeneration or development of land and infrastructure as well as compulsory purchase, land acquisition and disposal and development of land powers (the exercise of compulsory purchase functions is subject to the consent of all the local planning authorities affected).

EMCCA exercises local transport functions under the Transport Act 1985 and the Transport Act 2000. It can enter into agreements with strategic highways companies and enforce road traffic contraventions. Additionally, EMCCA has the power to implement a workplace parking levy and provide grants to bus service operators.

EMCCA has the power to borrow, a duty to prepare an economic assessment of the Area, will become responsible for Adult education and training functions which will be transferred from the Secretary of State.

The Mayor will chair the new Combined County Authority. The mayor's powers will include the power to designate a Mayoral Development Area and then set up a Mayoral Development Corporation as well as an ability to set a precept on Council Tax to fund mayoral functions and an option to charge a business rate supplement, subject to a ballot of local businesses.

What difference can EMCCA make?

Local decision making tends to result in better local economic performance, as policies are tailored to the needs of specific areas.

Local leaders often know and understand the areas much better than politicians and civil servants based in London, and their knowledge and experience can deliver what is appropriate and what will work for their region, especially when they work with nearby public and private sector partners.

EMCCA has already identified a number of key strategic aims through a strategic framework that sets out an initial broad vision rooted in inclusive growth. It aims to create a prosperous, sustainable, and fairer region by empowering people and businesses to seize opportunities.

The East Midlands underperforms against the national average across a number of core economic indicators, EMCCA will set to utilise its powers, funding and regional profile to tackle these issues and deliver on its objectives.

When will the Mayor take office?

The election for the first regional mayor will take place on 2 May 2024, The official list of candidates for the first East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) mayoral election is now confirmed and can be viewed by clicking: [Elections 2024 – East Midlands Devolution](#)

Where will the Mayor's office be located?

The Mayor will initially have an office based in Chesterfield, which will provide a hub for the Mayoral Office and EMCCA operations. EMCCA will also have hubs of Page 21 right across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire in

existing local authority locations and elsewhere, the location of these hubs is yet to be identified but will seek to ensure appropriate geographical coverage.

How does the establishment of EMCCA affect local councils?

Councils will continue to have the responsibilities they do now, providing vital services to their communities and championing their towns, rural communities, and cities. This is about moving powers and money from Whitehall to the East Midlands for the benefit of all our communities.

District and Borough Councils will be represented right across in EMCCA governance arrangements as Non-Constituent Members and will play a key role in working with EMCCA to deliver better outcomes for the region.

Will this mean extra bureaucracy and higher cost to taxpayers?

Devolution is about reducing bureaucracy. By taking decisions closer to where they will have an impact, we can reduce the lengthy processes involved with dealing with the Government and secure better outcomes, offering better value for money.

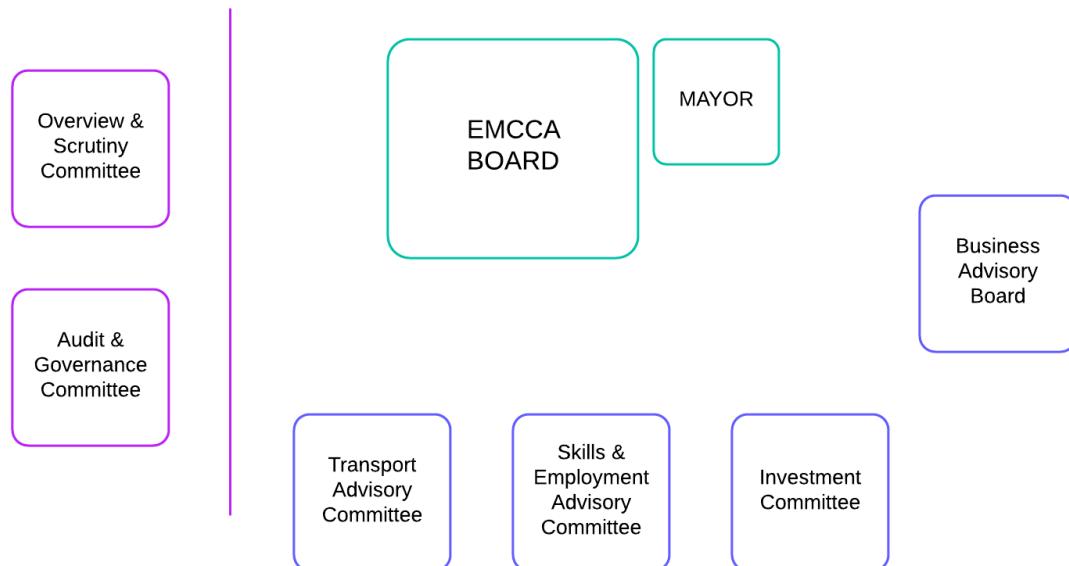
This isn't about adding a layer of unnecessary bureaucracy but moving resources and decision-making powers which already exist from London to the East Midlands and making all this democratically accountable to the people who live here.

As part of the devolution deal, funding has been secured to meet the additional costs of the new arrangements. The mayor will have limited tax-raising powers and would be accountable to the electorate for that decision and how that money is spent. Of the nine existing mayoral combined authorities, eight have this power, but only two have ever actually used it.

What are the governance arrangements at EMCCA?

EMCCA Board agreed the initial version of its governance arrangements at its first meeting on 20 March 2024, this version is based around enabling a minimal governance structure at first that will provide the platform for effective decision-making, strategy development and appropriate oversight and scrutiny, with the potential to build on that as the Combined County Authority develops.

In agreeing the initial version of its governance approach the intention of the Board was not to overcommit on governance arrangements before a Mayor is in place, and propose arrangements that whilst aligning with principles will allow the Mayor to be part of the evolution. The Committee structure at EMCCA initially looks as follows:



The EMCCA Board is the key decision-maker in the structure, it has responsibility for all decision-making outside of mayoral functions. It consists of the Leaders plus one other representative from each Constituent Council

Sets the strategic objectives	Board
Approves strategy, key policy and frameworks	Board
Sets the Medium-Term Financial Plan	Board
Non-Mayoral function decision-making	Board
Develops strategy, framework and policy proposals	Board and Advisory Committees
Provides investment guidance and advice	Investment Committee
Undertakes strategic level scrutiny	Overview & Scrutiny
Drives Mayoral and Board accountability	Overview & Scrutiny
Provides oversight and assurance of Standards and the Constitution	Audit & Governance
Provides oversight and assurance of sound financial management, governance and supporting frameworks	Audit & Governance
Provides the business voice	Business Advisory Board

How will District and Boroughs be involved?

Constituent Councils have formally emphasised a commitment to a principle of inclusivity when it comes to the involvement of District and Borough Councils, this commitment agreed on 20 March by the Board recognises District and Borough Councils as key partners and commits to:

- collaborate and engage on matters of strategy;
- co-design approaches where appropriate;
- continuously review arrangements to ensure the ability to influence is effectively enabled;
- provide opportunity to impact decision-making through effective Overview & Scrutiny; and
- work collaboratively to ensure communities feel engaged.

District & Borough Councils will be represented on EMCCA Board and all of its wider committees through two seats for each County area, the nominating bodies for each County will agree who these representatives are. The nominating bodies are the Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee and the Derbyshire Strategic Leadership Board.

There is also a statutory consents process in place that ensures that certain EMCCA decisions are subject to the consent of the local planning authorities affected.

For more information on EMCCA Governance please contact:

Jodie Townsend, Monitoring Officer

Jodie.Townsend@eastmidsdevo.org.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Subject:	Nottinghamshire & Nottingham Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
Presenting Authority:	Nottinghamshire County Council.
Report author and contact details:	David Arnold, Head of Planning and Environment david.arnold@nottsc.gov.uk
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Catherine Mayhew, LNRS Co-ordinator catherine.mayhew@nottsc.gov.uk Heather Stokes, Conservation Team Manager heather.stokes@nottsc.gov.uk
Key Decision: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Subject to call-in: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Value of decision: Not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital
Authorities affected: All	Date of consultation with relevant authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal pre-consultation with the Supporting Authorities for a 28-day period during October 2024. • Formal Six-week wider consultation with stakeholders during November and December 2024. • Formal pre-publication with Supporting Authorities for a 28-day period during January 2025.
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/constituent authorities): Nottinghamshire County Council was formally appointed as the Responsible Authority for preparing publishing, reviewing and re-publishing the statutory Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 26 June 2023. The County Council, as a Responsible Authority, must involve the Supporting Authorities in the development of the LNRS. For Nottinghamshire, these are the City Council, the 7 District and Borough Councils and Natural England. The East Midlands Combined County Authority will be a Supporting Authority for both the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham LNRS and for the Derby and Derbyshire LNRS. Supporting Authorities have an important role in shaping the LNRS and it is important that all the Nottinghamshire Councils work collaboratively in agreeing future nature recovery for Nottinghamshire and the City.	
It is proposed to report to the Economic Prosperity Committee at key milestones to provide an appropriate level of political oversight to monitor progress of the LNRS.	
Exempt information: Not Applicable.	

Recommendations

Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee is recommended to:

1. Endorse the role of the Economic Prosperity Committee as the Political Oversight Group to monitor the development of the LNRS prepared by the County Council on behalf of the City Council and the District and Borough Councils.
2. Note the statutory duties placed on the County Council as the Responsible Authority in preparing the LNRS and the role of the Supporting Authorities in shaping the LNRS.

3. Note progress so far and the key milestones that need to be achieved over the next 10 months, including the proposed timetable for decisions that need to be taken by the County Council, City Council and the Nottinghamshire District and Borough Councils in endorsing the LNRS.

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 Oversight of the preparation of the LNRS is required, to ensure that there is confidence in the robustness of the process at the most senior level within the Supporting Authorities.
- 1.2 The Responsible Authority and Supporting Authorities have roles that are prescribed in the legislation, regulations and guidance.
- 1.3 The Responsible Authority and Supporting Authorities need to be aware of the decision-making processes and deadlines that will need to be met, if we are to meet DEFRA's preferred timeframe of publication at end of March 2025.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Environment Act 2021 brought into law the Government's intention to create a Nature Recovery Network across England. The Nature Recovery Network will comprise of 48 Local Nature Recovery Strategies which will cover the whole of England. In accordance with the Act, each strategy will be designed to ensure a locally targeted and co-ordinated approach to help reverse the ongoing decline of nature and biodiversity.
- 2.2 The Council was formally appointed as the Responsible Authority for preparing, publishing, reviewing and re-publishing the LNRS for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 26th June 2023.
- 2.3 The preparation of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham LNRS is a new statutory duty for the County Council and is required to have regard to:
 - The Environment Act 2021(Section 105).
 - The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023.
 - LNRS Statutory Guidance March 2023.
- 2.4 The County Council, as the Responsible Authority, must involve the Supporting Authorities in the development of the LNRS, as set out in the Regulations. For Nottinghamshire, these are the City Council, the 7 District and Borough Councils and Natural England. It has been confirmed that the East Midlands Combined County Authority will also be a Supporting Authority for both the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham LNRS and for the Derby and Derbyshire LNRS.
- 2.5 All Nottinghamshire local authorities have a key role to play in preparing and delivering the LNRS and, as place leaders for their area, have an opportunity to positively shape the future of their natural environment.

2.6 The LNRS is intended to provide a range of benefits including:

- A single vision and strategic approach across the County and City, locally leading the way in which biodiversity is protected, restored, and enhanced.
- An evidence-based approach to inform priorities for nature recovery.
- A clear rationale for funding opportunities.
- Building and strengthening local partnerships to achieve agreed outcomes.
- Involving landowners and regulatory decision makers, to understand how they can contribute to nature's recovery.
- Supporting the planning system in local policy and decision making, including the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain.

Measures within the LNRS can also be shaped to provide co-benefits, for example by improving public access to green space and supporting people's health and well-being, alongside helping biodiversity.

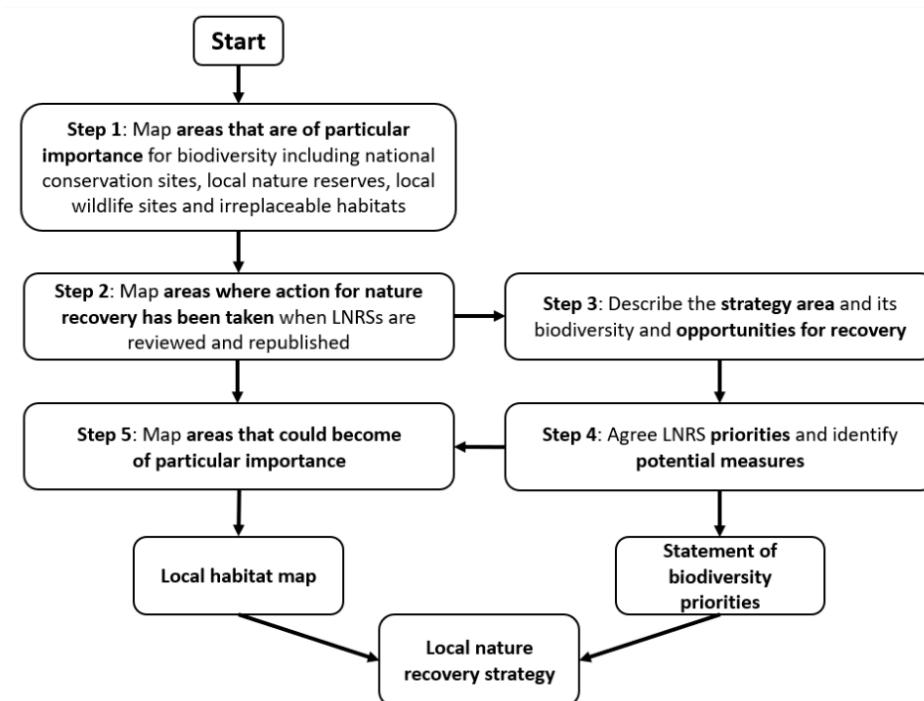
Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Nature Recovery Strategy

2.7 The joint LNRS will be evidence based, locally led and collaborative. It must include a statement of biodiversity priorities and a local habitat map. The statement will cover:

- the existing biodiversity; opportunities and priorities, in terms of habitats and species, for recovering or enhancing biodiversity; and
- proposals for potential measures relating to the agreed priorities.

2.8 The Government guidance recommends that Responsible Authorities follow a broad process in developing their LNRS, as set out in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1 – Process for developing an LNRS.

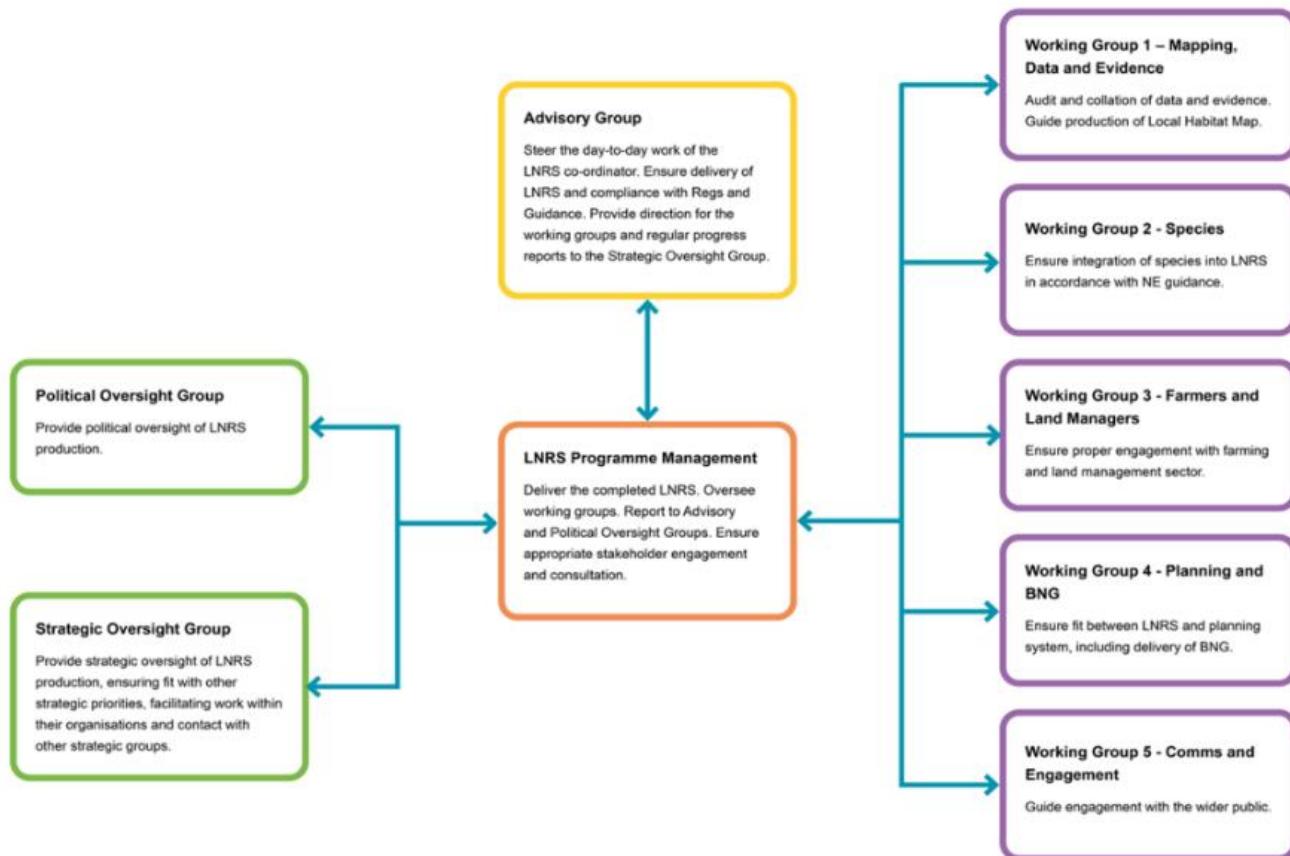


2.9 The LNRS must be published and be publicly available, with the evidence base against which it has been formulated, in accordance with a format prescribed by Government. It must then be reviewed and republished as part of an ongoing cycle of appraising what the strategy has achieved and identifying what further work is needed for nature to recover.

Proposed Governance Arrangements

2.10 Following receipt of “new burdens” funding, through a Section 31 grant, for the preparation of the LNRS in July 2023, a LNRS Co-ordinator has been appointed to manage the process. Their focus to date has been establishing the joint governance arrangements of the LNRS with the Supporting Authorities and the reporting arrangements of the working groups’ structure. These groups are now meeting regularly, and progress is on track following the timeline of the Project Management Plan. Figure 2, below, shows the relationship and reporting of the groups:

Figure 2 – Governance and Reporting of LNRS delivery



a) **Political Oversight Group** It is proposed that the LNRS Political Oversight Group would be responsible for endorsing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy prepared by Nottinghamshire County Council on behalf of all relevant Supporting Authorities. The purpose of the group is to:

- Monitor production of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham LNRS.
- Ensure support at a political level for the LNRS.
- Confirm the vision and strategic priorities for the LNRS.
- Monitor delivery and review of the LNRS.

Membership of the Political Oversight Group will comprise of senior Members from the County Council, City Council and the District and Borough Councils. Following a presentation to, and further discussion with, senior officers from the Supporting Authorities, it has been recommended that the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee should take on the role of the Political Oversight Group and receive reports on progress with the LNRS.

- b) **Strategic Oversight Group** The LNRS Strategic Oversight Group ensures that the Local Nature Recovery Strategy is in compliance with the legislation and associated guidance. The purpose of this group is to monitor the production of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire LNRS, ensure the LNRS has support and buy in from senior representatives and key organisations across the county. In addition to the Responsible and Supporting Authorities, senior representatives from the following organisations have been invited to be members of the Strategic Oversight Group:

- Forestry Commission
- Environment Agency
- National Farmers Union
- Country Land and Business Association
- Nottingham Wildlife Trust
- National Trust
- Woodland Trust
- RSPB
- Canal and River Trust
- Trent River Trust
- Nottingham Trent University
- University of Nottingham
- East Midlands Chamber
- Public Health

- c) **Advisory Group** The Advisory Group has been established to support and enable the preparation of LNRS and stakeholder engagement. Its role is:

- To make recommendations to the LNRS Coordinator.
- To make recommendations on the format and content of the LNRS.
- To respond to reports from the Working Groups.
- To provide information about projects, plans and strategies that will support nature recovery.
- To ensure that LNRS development aligns with local and national environmental objectives.
- To review reports to the Strategic Oversight Group and Political Oversight Group, produced by the LNRS Coordinator, including reports on progress, expected delivery dates and decisions for approval.

The Advisory Group oversees the work of the LNRS co-ordinator and ensures compliance with the Regulations and Guidance. This Group also provides direction for the Working Groups. Members of the Advisory Group include officers from:

- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Nottingham City Council

- 1 representative of the District/ Borough Councils (currently Rushcliffe Borough Council)
- Natural England
- Forestry Commission
- Environment Agency
- 1 representative from each of the 5 Working Groups.

d) **Working Groups** Five Working Groups have been established to undertake tasks to assist the LNRS preparation. These cover Mapping, Data and Evidence; Species; Farmers and Land Managers; Planning and Biodiversity Net Gain and Communications and Engagement. Each Working Group has its own Terms of Reference and membership is drawn from individuals and organisations with relevant knowledge and expertise for the outputs required.

e) **LNRS Programme Management** This is an internal County Council officer group, with responsibility to ensure delivery of the final LNRS, oversee the working groups and report to the Political and Strategic Oversight Groups. The Group also ensures that the appropriate level of community engagement and consultation is undertaken and that the conditions of the S.31 grant are met.

Involvement of People and Organisations

2.11 The County Council, as the Responsible Authority, must ensure that the LNRS is understandable and that it has promoted its value to local stakeholders and has encouraged their involvement in its preparation. Consultants that specialise in stakeholder and public engagement have now been appointed to assist the County Council in this and will be arranging a programme of consultation for different sectors over the Summer and early Autumn.

2.12 The County Council is also required to take reasonable steps to involve the Supporting Authorities, as set out in the Regulations. A Supporting Authority can formally object to the LNRS consultation draft and give notice to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if it considers that the final LNRS proposed for approval is materially deficient. Officers therefore meet regularly with Natural England and the City, District and Borough Councils to discuss progress of the LNRS.

Supporting Authorities have the opportunity to:

- **Work closely with the County Council** to help shape the LNRS so that it aligns with organisational needs and priorities.
- **Provide local data and input information from other relevant strategies**, such as Tree and Woodland Strategies and Landscape Management Plans.
- **Periodically review and agree drafts of the LNRS**. The Regulations provide all Supporting Authorities with the opportunity to review and agree drafts ahead of public consultation and publication to ensure widespread agreement on the content and approach.

2.13 The consultation draft of the LNRS will be subject to a 28-day formal consultation with the Supporting Authorities, followed by 6-week statutory public consultation with all stakeholders. The County Council will need to demonstrate that reasonable steps have been taken to have regard to any opinions expressed by the Supporting Authorities and any representations received in relation to the strategy during the 6-week public consultation.

Summary of Progress to Date

2.14 Since August 2023, Officers and partners have:

- Finalised a Project Plan and timetable, in consultation with the LNRS Advisory Group. This includes the proposed consultation period of the draft LNRS and the governance arrangements that surround publication and its approval from the Supporting Authorities. The Project Plan is included in Appendix 1 of this report.
- Established representation from all the Supporting Authorities and key stakeholder organisations and agreed the governance structure. Terms of Reference and roles and responsibilities have been agreed for each group, and meetings diarised for all the Groups for the next 10 months.
- Set up a page on the County Council's website, to facilitate communication and engagement [Local nature recovery strategy | Nottinghamshire County Council](#).
- Prepared the first part of the Local Habitat Map, showing existing designated sites. This is available to view on the County Council's website.
- Continued to develop the evidence base, including reviewing existing strategies and plans from the County, City and District Councils and key stakeholder organisations, that could affect nature recovery.
- Developed the list of species which are currently vulnerable or threatened in Nottinghamshire. With the support of local species experts, this “long list” is now being refined, to prepare a list of priority species for Nottinghamshire.
- Appointed specialist consultants to undertake extensive stakeholder engagement. This work is being funded from the S.31 grant.

Approval Process

2.16 As set out in the Project Plan (Appendix 1), the timescale for approval is as follows:

- **Nottinghamshire County Council Cabinet Member Briefing August 2024** The draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy will be shared with the Cabinet Member along with the emerging Local Habitat Map, Evidence Base and Priorities.

- **Nottinghamshire County Council Cabinet 19 September 2024**
Approval to undertake the formal pre-consultation with the Supporting Authorities for a 28-day period and, subject to no objections being received, to proceed to the formal 6-week consultation with wider stakeholders and the public that will take place during November and December 2024.
- All Supporting Authorities to formally confirm position on the Pre-Consultation draft LNRS – **October 2024**
- **Nottinghamshire Cabinet Member Decision January 2025**
Seek Cabinet Member approval to sign off the responses received from the formal 6-week consultation and recommendations on any changes to the consultation draft LNRS. Approval will also be sought to undertake a further 28-day statutory consultation with the Supporting Authorities on the Pre-Publication version of the LNRS.
- All Supporting Authorities formally confirm position Pre-Consultation version – **February 2025**
- **Nottinghamshire County Council Cabinet 27 March 2025**
Seek Cabinet approval to formally publish the LNRS.
- **Nottinghamshire County Council Full Council 22 May 2025**
Seek approval for Council to adopt the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

3 Other options considered in making recommendations

- 3.1 The County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment gave approval on 11 July 2022 for the County Council to act as Responsible Authority for the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy covering Nottinghamshire and Nottingham. The option for the County Council not to accept the appointment as Responsible Authority was discounted at that time, given the county-wide nature of the LNRS and the need for significant input from the County Council.
- 3.2 The provision of political oversight of the LNRS was discussed following a presentation to a meeting of the N2 Environmental Strategy Working Group, comprising senior officers from the Supporting Authorities. It was recommended that the Economic Prosperity Committee could take on the role of the Political Oversight Group and receive reports on progress with the LNRS, rather than setting up a separate group to undertake this role.

4 Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

- 4.1 The costs of preparing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham, including direct LNRS staffing and consultancy costs, will be covered by the Section 31 Grant from Department Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. There are also significant “in-kind” contributions of staff time and expertise from both the County Council and key partners.

5 Legal and Procurement colleague comments (including risk management issues, and legal, Crime and Disorder Act and procurement implications)

- 5.1 This report has been compiled after consideration of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights and the public sector duty.

Social value considerations

- 6.1 The Local Nature Recovery Strategy should seek to achieve multiple environmental benefits for the residents of Nottinghamshire and Nottingham, including improved access to green space, resilience to climate change and improved water and air quality.

7 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 7.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



8 List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

- 8.1 None

9 Published documents referred to in this report

- 9.1 None

Appendix 1

Joint Local Nature Recovery Strategyc Project Plan

August 2023 - May 2025

No	Task	Assigned To	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25		
	Staff																									
	LNRS Coordinator - full time		Start																							
	Notts BAG intern - part time						Start																			
	Production and Key Approvals																									
	NCC Cabinet Member initial briefing																									
	Engagement consultants																									
	Initial stakeholder engagement period																									
	NCC Scrutiny														26/04/2024											
	Produce 1st Draft LNRS																									
	NCC Cabinet Member update briefing																									
	NCC Cabinet meeting pre public consult															19/09/2024										
	28 days SA consultation pre-draft															28 days	28 days									
	Consider response from SA																									
	Public consultation - 6 week period																	6 weeks	6 weeks							
	Analysis of comments																									
	Cabinet member sign off																									
	28 days SA pre-publication																									
	Consider response from SA																									
	Produce final version LNRS																									
	NCC Cabinet meeting - approval																								27/03/2025	
	Final publication - after Cabinet sign off																									
	NCC Full Council - endorsement																									32/08/2025
	Governance																									
	LNRS Advisory Group																									
	Strategic Oversight Group																									
	Political Oversight Group - Notts/Nott Ec Prosperity																									
	Working Group 1 - Data																									
	Working Group 2 - Species																									
	Working Group 3 - Farmers																									
	Working Group 4 - Planning & BNG																									
	Working Group 5 - Comms																									
	Data/Evidence																									
	NGBRC Species work																									
	VIA habitat bank study																									
	Consultation Events or Comms Opps																									
	Notts County Show															11/05/2024										
	NTU Conservation Society engagement															14/05/2024										
	Great Big Green Week 8th-16th June															8th to 16th										
	Sherwood Forest Festival 15th-16th June															15/06/2024										
	Rushcliffe RNCSIG Volunteer Forum																	05/10/2024								