



**Nottingham City Council
Executive Board**

Date: Tuesday, 11 February 2025

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: Phil Wye **Direct Dial:** 0115 8764637

Agenda	Pages
1 Apologies for Absence	
2 Declarations of Interests	
3 Minutes Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2024, for confirmation	3 - 10
4 Budget Monitoring Period 9 (2024/25) Report of the Executive Member for Finance and Resources	To Follow
5 2025/26 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/6 - 2028/29 Report of the Executive Member for Finance and Resources	To Follow
6 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan 2025-2054, Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2025 to 2029, HRA Budget 2025/26 including Rent Setting, and Housing Capital Programme 2025/26 to 2028/29 Joint report of the Executive member for Housing and Planning and the Executive member for Finance and Resources	To Follow
7 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Report of the Executive member for Skills, Growth and Economic	11 - 24

Development

- | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| 8 | Development of Site of United Reform Church for Social Housing
Report of the Executive Member for Housing and Planning | 25 - 36 |
| 9 | Our Council Plan 2025-29
Joint Report of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council | To Follow |
| 10 | Child Friendly Nottingham 12 Month Progress Review Update
Report of the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education | 37 - 52 |
| 11 | East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) - Approval of Draft Adult Educations Functions Regulations 2025
Report of the Leader of the Council | 53 - 60 |
| 12 | Exclusion of the Public
To consider excluding the public from the meeting during consideration of the remaining items in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, under Schedule 12A, Part 1, Paragraphs 3 and 5, on the basis that, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining an exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information | |
| 13 | Development of Site of United Reform Church for Social Housing - Exempt Appendices | 61 - 66 |

All items listed 'under exclusion of the public' will be heard in private for the reasons listed in the agenda papers. They have been included on the agenda as no representations against hearing the items in private were received.

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

Executive Board

**Minutes of the meeting held at Loxley House, Nottingham on 21 January 2025
from 2.00 pm - 3.03 pm**

Membership

Present

Councillor Neghat Khan (Chair)
Councillor Ethan Radford (Vice Chair)
Councillor Cheryl Barnard
Councillor Jay Hayes
Councillor Corall Jenkins
Councillor Pavlos Kotsonis
Councillor Sam Lux
Councillor Linda Woodings

Absent

Councillor Kevin Clarke

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Stuart Fair	- Interim Corporate Director for Finance and Resources
Beth Brown	- Director of Legal and Governance
Nicki Jenkins	- Interim Corporate Director for Growth and City Development
Lucy Lee	- Strategic Director for Transformation and Change
Sarah Nardone	- Interim Corporate Director for Children and Education Services
Colin Parr	- Corporate Director for Community, Environment and Resident Services
Sajeeda Rose	- Chief Executive
Phil Wye	- Governance Officer

Call-in

Unless stated otherwise, all decisions are subject to call-in. The last date for call-in is 30 January 2025. Decisions cannot be implemented until the working day after this date.

82 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Kevin Clarke – work commitments
Vicky Murphy

83 Declarations of Interests

None.

84 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

85 Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/26

Councillor Linda Woodings, Executive Member for Finance and Resources, presented the report seeking a decision on the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2025-2026 having regard to the feedback obtained through the 6-week consultation exercise. Executive Board's recommendation will be presented to Full Council for approval on 27 January 2025. The scheme will be regularly reviewed.

Resolved to

- (1) note and consider the consultation feedback attached to the report as appendix 1;**
- (2) recommend the proposed changes to the Council Tax Support scheme attached to the report as Appendix 2 for 2025-2026 to Full Council on 27 Jan 2025;**
- (3) delegate approval for the Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2025-2026 Regulations to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources.**

Reasons for decisions:

- The Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme, which replaced the previous national Council Tax Benefit scheme from April 2013, provides financial assistance to households on low incomes or benefits through a reduction in Council Tax. Each year the Council is required to consider whether to revise its CTS scheme.
- The Local Government Finance Act 1992 sets out the process by which Councils must approve a local CTS scheme. Regulations continue to prescribe the scheme for households who have reached state pension age (pensioners), allowing up to 100% support against Council Tax liability.
- The current scheme provides a maximum amount of 80% support for working age claimants.
- With the financial pressures to close the substantial budget gap, Nottingham City Council must look to all options, including reduced support for CTS.
- Statutorily the scheme must be agreed by 11 March 2025 for the new scheme to take effect for the following year and to enable the Council to make the required savings of £0.260m for the year 2025/26. If the Council does not meet this deadline and agree the changes to the scheme, the Council will be required to continue to deliver the current CTS scheme and will need to find an alternative way to manage the budget gap.

Other options considered:

- Not to revise the Council Tax Support Scheme. This option was rejected as an alternative way to manage the budget gap has not been identified.

86 2025/26 Budget Strategy Update

Councillor Linda Woodings, Executive Member for Finance and Resources, presented the report representing an update in the Council's budget planning process, seeking to refresh the future budget gaps the Council is likely to be facing based on the latest available information including the provisional settlement announced in December 2024. This includes likely recurring budget issues identified as part of forecast in-year budget monitoring and expert external advice on possible settlement and related funding.

The working assumptions underpinning the MTFP previously assumed in March 2024 and reiterated in June 2024 have been refreshed with the 2025-26 gap reducing from £69.0m to the latest projection of £23.4m.

A core assumption in setting the base for 2025-26 includes successfully managing demand related cost pressures within the current financial year 2024-25 and sustaining this position over the medium term. Closing the structural deficit is foundational to the medium- and longer-term financial stability of the Council. Successful delivery of transformational change and efficiency savings will be fundamental to the elimination of the embedded structural deficit.

The proposed budget strategy, process and modelling will be further refined and will include any further adjustments arising from the final budget settlement announcement and the outcome of the request to Government for Exceptional Financial Support.

Executive Members thanked Councillor Woodings and finance officers for their hard work in reducing the budget deficit but acknowledged there is still work to be done.

The Leader of the Council confirmed that the rate of council tax will not need to rise by 10% as could be permitted in exceptional circumstances, and that the Council's ambition will be to not use all of the exceptional financial support available to it if possible.

Resolved to

- (1) note the revised forecast budget gap of £23.4m after new saving options currently being consulted on for delivery within 2025-26, with an indicative cumulative budget gap of £56.8m over the 4 years of the new MTFP period of 2025-26 to 2028-29;**
- (2) note the updated Capital Programme;**
- (3) note the progress made in delivering the agreed budget strategy and developing new saving proposals;**
- (4) Note the budget preparation timetable as set out in the report.**

Reasons for decisions:

- The report is a part of the Council's annual budget setting and business planning process and seeks to update the projected MTFP gaps so that decision makers are aware of the potential quantum of saving options that might be required to balance the budget.
- The overarching objective of the agreed budget strategy is to ensure that the Council sets a priority-led budget over the medium term that is balanced and realistic supported by achievable saving plans. However, it must be recognised that the Council continues to face budget challenges which requires the Council to transform the way it delivers services and doing things differently.
- The Council continues to face budget pressures in future years and uncertainty, including the continuing level of support from Central Government, over the medium term as Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) announced a one-year settlement in the provisional budget announcement in December 2024. Due to an increased demand for services, alongside the backdrop of the cost-of-living and where demand change can lead to material budget variances. This is further exacerbated by the current global and national political and economic environment and the prospect of reducing local government funding and support from government.

Other options considered:

- None - as a result of the financial challenge faced by the Council in 2025-26 and beyond the Council needs to set a budget strategy providing a strategic financial framework and direction of travel for the Council to work within.

87 Library Provision and Service Delivery to 2030

Councillor Sam Lux, Executive Member for Carbon Reduction, Leisure and Culture, presented the report setting out proposals for the strategic direction of the Library Service to 2030 taking account of the overall financial position of the Council and the need to deliver a modern and sustainable Library Service. It provides an overview of the work undertaken to date and the evidence base used to support the case for the changes being proposed.

The proposals have been developed from an updated Library Assessment and public consultation exercise, which has resulted in a refreshed vision and a set of strategic outcomes for the Service as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report. The report seeks to determine the future core statutory provision for library provision for Nottingham City, in line with requirements of the Public Libraries and Museums Act (1964).

Executive Members thanked Councillor Sam Lux and officers for their hard work resulting in the retention of library facilities.

Resolved to

- (1) note the context, evidence, information, and findings from the library consultation set out in the Libraries Assessment Future Library Provision to 2030 Report (Appendix 1), which has led to the final recommendations for the future provision and delivery of the Library Service to 2030;**

- (2) agree the officer recommended proposal set out in section 3 of the report in order to deliver a sustainable library service to 2030 whilst achieving the agreed MTFP budget saving for the Service of £1.524m. The savings will be allocated to the appropriate budgets where costs savings will be achieved for each affected site;**
- (3) recognise that this level of library provision is considered to fulfil the City Council's statutory obligations. Where additional service provision can be delivered by external partners or voluntary support, this is supplementary to the City Council's statutory requirement;**
- (4) actively work and engage with community and third sector partners to develop and deliver community activity and library provision for the city.**

Reasons for decisions:

- The proposal will enable the authority to provide a sustainable library service going forward to 2030, achieving the MTFP saving agreed for the service whilst providing its statutory duty of comprehensive and efficient service. The recommendation has fully considered a range of factors including cost, usage, library performance, location, and community need, as well feedback from an extensive consultation process regarding the future delivery of the service.

Other options considered:

- In reaching the recommendations, a range of alternative options were considered, none of which were ultimately taken forward:
 - Option 1 Maintain Current Library Network Recommendations
 - Benefits: No immediate changes to access
 - Impacts: Fails to meet budget savings, requires costly maintenance, does not support a modern, agile service and align to Best Value and the Duties and Powers review previously undertaken.
 - Option 2 Consultation Proposal
 - Benefits: Achieves budget savings, retains a core network, meets statutory duties, eliminates some maintenance liabilities. Allows for potential community asset transfer.
 - Impacts: Does not respond to concerns raised by citizens and stakeholders from the consultation in relation to operational hours and the longer-term potential to build back.
 - Option 3 Further Reduced Network
 - Benefits: Achieves savings through reduction of buildings without reducing opening hours for the remaining library network, retains a modern efficient network of quality facilities and with skilled staff. Enables capital receipts from asset sales.
 - Impacts: Reduces household access to libraries (below 70% of households would be within a 20 min walk of a library), risks not meeting residents needs, statutory duty and legal challenges. Diminishes Nottingham's standing of library points per 1,000 population compared to all other core cities.
 - Option 4 Community/ Volunteer Run Libraries
 - Benefits: Engages citizens and reduces staff costs.

- Impacts: Low resident interest in managing libraries, long setup times, unresolved liability issues and limited cost savings.
- Option 5 Outsource to a Third-Party Provider
 - Benefits: Potential for cost efficiencies through economies of scale and opportunity to transfer risks and liabilities of buildings and service delivery.
 - Impacts: Required detailed appraisal and procurement work, unlikely to meet savings targets on time, involves staff transfers (TUPE).

88 Nottingham City Council Concessionary Travel Scheme Arrangements 2025-26

Councillor Neghat Khan, Executive Member for Strategic Regeneration, Transport and Communications presented the report seeking approval for the Nottingham Concessionary Travel Scheme for 2025-26, and to publish the Scheme, which it is required to do by 3rd March 2025, 28 days prior to the Scheme commencing from 1 April 2025.

Resolved to

- (1) approve the Nottingham Concessionary Travel Scheme (NCTS) for 2025-2026, and the publication of the final scheme statutory notice on 3 March 2025;**
- (2) approve the following additional discretionary elements of the scheme from April 2025;**
 - a. free travel on the tram by city residents that possess a valid City Council issued concessionary travel pass and;**
 - b. the companion facility attached to passes issued to city residents for certain disabilities.**
 - c. free travel on the bus or tram for disabled city residents before 9:30am on weekdays, from start the of service. This is funded by the government's Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP).**
- (3) grant delegated authority to the Corporate Director for Growth and City Development, in consultation with the Executive Member for Strategic Regeneration, Transport and Communications to;**
 - a. agree reimbursement arrangements and associated financial commitments for statutory and discretionary concessionary fare payments for 2025-26 and;**
 - b. review the Scheme throughout 2025-26 as part of the transitioning process to a new East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA).**

Reasons for decisions:

- To ensure that the Council meets its statutory duty in relation to concessionary fares and also continues to provide a wide range of travel opportunities and choices for the residents of Nottingham, aligning with the Council and Government's strategic objectives in the context of public transport.

Other options considered:

- No other options are available for the national scheme as the provision of concessionary travel for elderly and disabled people is a statutory duty.
- Consideration was given to removing the free tram travel benefit for city resident concessionary pass holders and the companion facility attached to passes issued to city residents with certain disabilities. If the tram was excluded from the concessionary travel scheme there would be a large migration from tram to bus as Nottingham residents would most likely have a local bus service available as an alternative option to the tram, meaning there would still be a considerable cost to the Council. There would also be a loss of accessibility for the elderly and for people with mobility difficulties. NET is particularly well suited for travel by people with mobility difficulties as it is designed to offer fully accessible trams and stops. Trams are 100% low floor throughout with level boarding at stops. Removal would also mean that a large number of residents would not have a public transport service within walking distance on which they could use their concessionary card. These restrictions would not align with Nottingham's strategic aims. The companion card ensures that residents who cannot travel alone are able to use public transport, and removal would create barriers to travel and potentially result in vulnerable people being isolated.

89 Letting of Suite 6, Second Floor, The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Building (EGA), Nottingham Science Park, Jesse Boot Avenue, Nottingham NG7 2RU

Councillor Ethan Radford, Executive Member for Skills, Growth and Economic Development, presented the report regarding a letting at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Building, Nottingham Science Park, the terms of which represent best consideration. The letting will provide a significant rental income and remove existing void costs.

Resolved to

- (1) approve the lease terms agreed with the prospective tenant in respect of the subject property as set out in the attached exempt appendix to the report;**
- (2) approve the payment of associated fees;**
- (3) delegate the approval of any required final terms and conditions, save for rent, to the Director of Economic Development & Property.**

Reasons for decisions:

- Suite 6 is currently vacant, with the opportunity marketed by an external agent on behalf of the Council. Heads of terms for lease have been negotiated with the prospective tenant at market rent and a deal which represents Best Consideration.
- External agents' fees have been incurred to secure the letting and approval to their payment is required.
- A delegation to the Director of Economic Development & Property will enable the transaction to progress at pace and generate revenue and remove void costs.

Other options considered:

- Not to proceed with the letting to the prospective tenant – this is not recommended as this is a significant letting at the property on market facing terms providing a rental income at market rental value over the lease term which will remove the Council's liability for ongoing void costs.

90 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the remaining items in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, under Schedule 12A, Part 1, Paragraph 3, on the basis that, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining an exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

91 Letting of Suite 6, Second Floor, The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Building (EGA), Nottingham Science Park, Jesse Boot Avenue, Nottingham NG7 2RU - Exempt Appendix

Councillor Ethan Radford, Executive Member for Skills, Growth and Economic Development, presented the exempt appendix which was noted by the Board.

Subject:	UK Shared Prosperity Fund
Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):	Nicki Jenkins, Corporate Director for Growth and City Development Beverley Gouveia, Director of Economic Development and Property
Executive Member(s):	Ethan Radford, Deputy Leader of Nottingham City Council Executive Member for Skills, Growth and Economic Development
Report author and contact details:	Alex Reader. alex.reader@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Matthew Wheatley. matthew.wheatley@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Subject to call-in:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Criteria for Key Decision:	
(a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £750,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision	
and/or	
(b) Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Type of expenditure: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital If Capital, provide the date considered by Capital Board Date:	
Total value of the decision: Up to £6.75m	
Section 151 Officer expenditure approval Has the spend been approved by the Section 151 Officer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/a Spend Control Board approval reference number:	
Commissioner Consideration Has this report been shared with the Commissioners' Office? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Any comments the Commissioners wish to provide are listed below.	
Wards affected: All	
Date of consultation with Executive Member(s): 30/01/25	
Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:	
Clean, Green and Connected Communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Safer Nottingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Living Well in Our Communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve the City Centre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Better Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serving People Well	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):	
<p>The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) is the Government's successor programme to the previous European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF), a programme that integrated five main funding streams, each supporting economic prosperity. UKSPF has three investment priorities: Communities and Place, Supporting Local Business, and People and Skills. As part of UKSPF, the Government also allocated funds for Multiply, an adult (19+) numeracy programme. Each Local Authority received 'ring-fenced' allocations for this programme within its UKSPF allocation.</p> <p>To access the 2022-2025 UKSPF funding, the Council developed and submitted two investment</p>	

plans (one for UK SPF core programme and one for Multiply). These plans were created in partnership with local stakeholders and received Government approval in the Autumn of 2022.

The previous Government allocated funds to Local Authorities for a three-year period, from April 2022 to March 2025. In the Government's 2024 Autumn Budget, a one-year extension to the programme was confirmed. The amount of funding available nationally for the 2025-26 financial year will be 60% of the 2024-25 financial year budget. There will not be any separate of ring-fenced funds for Multiply in the 2025-26 allocation.

Nottingham City Council 2022-25 UKSPF programme has supported Nottingham's residents, communities and businesses, through a diverse range of projects including, employment support, community development, City Centre and neighbourhood improvements, Visitor Economy and Inward Investment activity and business growth support.

As with the initial allocation, the Fund's interventions will be planned and managed by local authorities across England, however Government has confirmed that the funds for Nottingham City, alongside those for all East Midlands local authorities, for the 2025-26 Financial Year will be allocated to the East Midlands Counties Combined Authorities (EMCCA) rather than to Nottingham City Council. This was part of the East Midlands Devolution Deal. EMCCA has committed to passing on a proportion of this 'regional' UKSPF allocation onto Nottingham City Council.

The Government updated the UKSPF Prospectus for the 2025-26 extension, along with details of the allocations to Mayoral Authorities. They also confirmed that places with a new or revised devolution deal that is operational by 31 March 2025 (including EMCCA) are not required to submit a revised investment plan. Lead local authorities are required to update Government on plans for 2025-26 through routine reporting.

Local authorities that no longer act as 'lead local authority' for UKSPF from 2025-26 will be required to close down their UKSPF programme. Information on the closure process will be communicated in due course.

Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication?

No

Recommendation(s):

1. Upon confirmation from East Midlands Counties Combined Authority of the allocation of UKSPF funding for the 2025-26 Financial Year to Nottingham City Council, to accept this and enter into any associated funding agreement with EMCCA for receipt of funding
2. To delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Growth and City Development to use and allocate the funds for the delivery of the UKSPF projects in accordance with compliant processes under the Contract Procedure Rules (through a combination of an open call grant competition to public or private organisations, the procurement of contracts, and in-house delivery provision, including the use of funding for the internal administration and management of the project)
3. To delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Growth and City Development to award and sign contracts and grant agreements associated with the project delivery;

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 Whilst there have been recent improvements in areas such as digital connectivity and some skill levels at higher tiers, Nottingham is still experiencing ongoing challenges related to deprivation and inequality.

Deprivation:

- Nottingham remains the 11th most deprived Local Authority in England according to the 2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Over half (55.2%) of Nottingham's population lives in areas within the 20% most deprived nationally
- In terms of income deprivation affecting children, 37.9% of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Nottingham fall within the 10% most deprived in England

Economic Productivity and Employment:

- Nottingham's Gross Value Added (GVA) per head remains 13.7% lower than the national average. The local employment rate (71.7%) continues to lag behind the national rate (75.1%), with disparities among priority groups such as Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) workers, disabled individuals, and older workers
- Recent data show a significant employment rate gap for disabled residents, standing at over 22% below the national average

Skills and Education:

- Skills attainment, particularly at basic and entry levels, remains a challenge. Nottingham continues to rank poorly in numeracy skills, falling in the 96th percentile nationally for numeracy needs

Health and Life Expectancy:

- Healthy life expectancy in Nottingham is significantly below the national average, with men living 5.7 years fewer in good health and women 6.8 years fewer. Life expectancy inequalities between the most and least affluent areas exceed 8 years

- 1.2 The **Nottingham Economic Plan** published in July 2024, is a ten-year strategy designed to boost the city's economy through sustainable and inclusive growth. Created by Nottingham City Council in partnership with various stakeholders, the plan aims to address economic challenges while leveraging the city's strengths in creative industries, digital innovation, life sciences, and its cultural and educational assets.

- 1.3 The plan is structured around four key themes, each with specific goals for 2030:

- **People and Skills:** Facilitate the creation of 20,000 additional jobs, enhance educational offerings, and support lifelong learning to improve employability.
- **Enterprise and Investment:** Increase Gross Value Added (GVA) by £1 billion by nurturing existing businesses, promoting new enterprises, and diversifying the economy.
- **Infrastructure and Regeneration:** Develop infrastructure to support a growing population, ensuring quality living spaces and connectivity.

- **Liveability and Experience:** Secure £4 billion in regenerative investment to create a vibrant, clean, and globally competitive city centre.

- 1.4 Nottingham's current UKSPF programme is actively funding projects and initiatives that align with the plan's core themes, enhancing the economic prosperity of individuals, communities, and businesses, while driving improvements to the City Centre and its neighbourhoods. Notably, the programme has already delivered significant outcomes, including the improvement of over 19,000m² of commercial space, supporting 1,900 individuals in job-search activities, and providing business growth advice and support to 1,100 businesses. The extension of the UKSPF funding will enable the continuation and expansion of these impactful activities.
- 1.5 The themes of Inclusion, Productivity and Carbon Neutrality run through the heart of the existing Nottingham's UKSPF programme and will retain prominence in the extended programme.

2. **Background (including outcomes of consultation)**

- 2.1 The UKSPF Investment Plan for Nottingham City Council was developed collaboratively through the Nottingham UKSPF Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG), a subgroup of the Nottingham Growth Board. The SAG included diverse representation from MPs, community and faith organizations, education and skills providers, civil society groups, employer bodies, and the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP). To ensure broad input, the Council also hosted webinars and engagement sessions with community partners and stakeholders.
- 2.2 In partnership with the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA), Nottingham City Council is developing an approach for managing UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) extension funds. This collaboration considers the balance between funding regional projects through EMCCA and local initiatives administered by City and District Councils.
- 2.3 The expectation is for EMCCA's Board to consider and approve the approach for the use of the 2025-26 UKSPF fund at its meeting on February 10th 2025.
- 2.4 A significant funding reduction is anticipated for activities within Nottingham City for 2025-26. Nottingham City Council is expecting an allocation of no more than £4.75 million for this local activity, a decrease from the £6.1 million allocated in 2024-25. This reduction is attributed to a smaller national budget and the anticipated retention of revenue funds by EMCCA for regional projects. Nottingham City Council has actively collaborated with EMCCA on the allocation and use of funds for the extension and fully supports the approach adopted.
- 2.5 Local authorities, including Nottingham City Council, can use up to 4% of their UKSPF allocation to cover administrative costs.
- 2.6 EMCCA is exploring the possibility of allocating the £2 million of revenue funding for regional initiatives, such as business support, to one of the City or County councils to administer and manage. Should Nottingham City Council agree to oversee the distribution of these regional grants on behalf of EMCCA, they would be allocated up to 4% of the total funding to cover the additional administrative activity.

- 2.7 In 2024-25, **20% of the UKSPF allocation** was dedicated to capital funding. The proportion of capital funding in EMCCA's 2025-26 UKSPF allocation is 31.3%.
- 2.8 This framework underscores the Council's strategic focus on maximising the impact of reduced resources while addressing local and regional priorities through strong collaboration with EMCCA and other stakeholders.

UKSPF Interventions included in the 2025-26 Financial Year

- 2.9 The UKSPF and Multiply Interventions included in the original Investment Plans were selected based on the evidence base, consultation feedback, Economic Recovery and Renewal Plan priorities and a wider needs assessment of the local provision landscape.
- 2.10 The interventions to be funded and delivered using the additional funding will build upon the successful delivery of the existing programme, while taking into account EMCCA's planned regional approach. The UKSPF funds allocated to Nottingham City Council in the 2025-26 financial year will focus on:
- Supporting economically inactive individuals to transition into employment, particularly priority groups (BAME, over 50s, women, those with health conditions and disabilities, and young people), commissioned services via open call
 - Developing green and local carbon skills and progression into careers in this sectors
 - a range of interventions to support improvements in neighbourhoods and the city centre
 - providing support for Nottingham businesses, including in-house Council delivery and commissioned services via open call. The range of incentives will include:
 - o support for business start-ups
 - o support for businesses to grow
 - o a Social Enterprise Support Programme
 - o improving access to finance
 - o grants for local businesses to support productivity growth and decarbonisation;
 - Community engagement and development activities, including a Winter Support Grant
 - Providing support to employers to develop Inclusive Recruitment practices
 - Coordinating an approach to maximise the impact of employers' Corporate Social Responsibility commitments on Nottingham's communities and neighbourhoods
 - Numeracy Skills courses (if alternative funding source for this activity can not be identified).
- 2.11 The following activities are included in those which EMCCA is looking to fund as part of its regional approach.
- Support for the Visitor Economy and Tourism in Nottingham
 - Support for continued inward investment into Nottingham
- 2.12 For the UKSPF programme, lead local authorities for each area have flexibility over how they deliver the Fund and can use a mix of the following 'support interventions':
- Grant to public or private organisations ("Lead local authorities should note

that competitions for projects is the default approach for selecting recipients of public grants.”)

- Commissioning third party organisations (refers to commissioning a delivery organisation without competition. Normally the only suitable body.)
- Procurement of service provision (following national procurement regulations.)
- In-house provision (Some community level interventions may require a commissioning or in-house approach, recognising that competitions for grant may create barriers to participation in left behind communities.)

2.13 The Council will make it clear to applicants that apply for funds through Open Calls that:

- the outcome of any open call competition is subject to Nottingham City Council receiving sufficient funds from EMCCA
- the number of grants to be awarded through the open call competition will be dependent on the funds allocated to Nottingham City Council
- grant agreements will not be signed with successful applicants until Nottingham City Council has signed an agreement with EMCCA

UKSPF and Multiply Internal Resourcing

2.14 To administer, manage and deliver the 2025-26 UKSPF programme, the Council will employ a dedicated UKSPF project team funded through the programme's allocation. This team oversees fund management, project compliance, claims submission, administration, monitoring, evaluation, as well as the delivery of grant schemes and projects within the programme. The team comprises the following roles, Economic Development Programme Manager (1.0 FTE), three Project Officers (2.8 FTE combined) and a Project Compliance Officer (1.0 FTE). For the 2025-26 programme, the reduction in funding available through the 4% management allocation has been addressed by:

- Reducing the number of posts supported through the UKSPF administration budget (including maternity cover costs).
- Deploying staff on project delivery, including;
 - grant schemes (reflecting the higher percentage of capital funding in the UKSPF programme)
 - implementing and delivering new projects, including maximising Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities and volunteering opportunities across the City.

2.15 This approach ensures that funding is allocated appropriately to meet the administration and management requirements of the programme whilst delivering externally funded projects and programmes in line with Nottingham's Strategic Council Plan.

2.14 In 2025-26, the UKSPF project team will be fully funded by Nottingham City Council's allocation from EMCCA. The team's responsibilities will include;

- Awarding funds through open calls and managing relationships with grant recipients.
- Delivery of UKSPF funded grant schemes.
- Delivery of UKSPF funded projects.
- Collating, quality assuring and reporting of financial and performance data, as required under the agreement between Nottingham City Council and EMCCA.

Grant Conditions

2.16 The Council will be required to meet the grant conditions included in the agreement with EMCCA. The grant conditions from the existing programme (and are anticipated to be reflected in the agreement for the extension) are given below

Financial

2.17 Nottingham City Council will receive upfront payments from EMCCA early in the financial year.

2.18 Government will require authorities to report how the money was spent as part of 6-monthly returns demonstrating evidence of defrayal and successful delivery of performance outputs. Nottingham City Council will be expected to provide EMCCA with this information, to enable it to meet its timescales for completing its return to Government.

2.19 Nottingham City Council will be asked to return any underspends at the end of the financial year to EMCCA.

Publicity

2.20 Lead local authorities and project deliverers must ensure that the appropriate UK Government logos are used prominently in all communications materials and public facing documents relating to funded activity – including print and publications, through to digital and electronic materials. Failure to adhere to publicity guidelines could lead to financial penalties.

Subsidy

2.21 Lead Authorities will be asked to detail how their proposed interventions will be delivered within the subsidy control regime and their capacity and capability to manage subsidy. Failure to adhere to subsidy control regulations could lead to financial penalties.

Procurement

2.22 All spend associated with the Fund must be assessed by the lead local authority in advance to ensure that proposed investment is compliant with the Procurement Act 2023 where relevant and follows local constitution and grant rules, processes and procedures as and where relevant

Performance

2.23 Lead Authorities will be asked to report data to ensure that allocations are being spent to agreed timescales and milestones, including achievement of outputs and outcomes at the project level. Nottingham City Council will be expected to provide EMCCA with this information, to enable it to meet its timescales for completing its return to Government.

Meeting Grant Requirements

2.24 UKSPF will be managed by experienced officers within Growth and City Development, a department with a successful track record of managing and

delivering projects on behalf of Government under the existing UKSPF programme and before that, the 2014 to 2020 European Structural Investment Fund Programme.

- 2.25 Economic Development has successfully delivered the existing £8.6m UKSPF programme as well as £54 million of European Funded provision without incurring any financial claw-back from Government and has the capacity and expertise to continue to manage the UKSPF in accordance with all grant conditions, avoiding any financial claw-back.
- 2.26 To manage the potential risk of financial claw-back due to under performance by external delivery partners, the Council will have the right to withhold funding or request the return of any overpaid funding under individual grant agreements or service contracts as applicable.
- 2.27 The UKSPF Investment Plan for the existing programme was developed in partnership with Legal, Procurement, Finance, and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion colleagues to ensure appropriate systems and process are in place to manage the fund in accordance with fund criteria whilst delivering maximum benefit to communities locally.
- 2.28 Officers will continue to work with partners to monitor outputs and deliverables throughout the lifetime of the project, reviewing processes and performance monthly.

3. **Other options considered in making recommendations**

- 3.1 Rejecting the UKSPF allocation from EMCCA was considered, but this option was declined. It was determined that forfeiting local management of these funds—along with the best practices established during the delivery of the existing UKSPF programme—would significantly diminish the effectiveness of the additional year's funding, negatively impacting the residents, communities, and businesses of the City.

4. **Consideration of Risk**

- 4.1 The extension to the UKSPF programme will be managed by the same experienced officers within Growth and City Development, that managed the existing programme. Economic Development has a successful track record of managing and delivering projects on behalf of Government. Under the 2014 to 2020 European Structural Investment Fund Programme, Economic Development has successfully delivered £54 million of employment and skills provision without incurring any financial claw-back from Government.
- 4.2 The Economic Development Programme Manager is part of MHCLG's Global UKSPF Fraud Risk Assessment Focus Group, which meets regularly to discuss and review the risk register for the National Programme.
- 4.3 A comprehensive risk register for the programme extension has been developed. Existing risk management plans have been updated to address all relevant risks associated with the new funding arrangements with EMCCA.
- 4.4 The following key risks have been identified, along with the corresponding mitigation measures:
 - i. **Underperformance Leading to Financial Clawback**

Risk: Financial clawback remains the responsibility of the Council as the grant recipient.

Mitigation:

i. A 4% management fee within the grant enables resources to work with grant recipients to effectively monitor performance

ii. **Failure to Maintain Audit and Reporting Records**

Risk: Insufficient record-keeping for audit and reporting requirements.

Mitigation:

i. Standardised UKSPF claim paperwork provided during implementation meetings.

ii. Dedicated UKSPF compliance expertise available to support all projects.

iii. **Non-Compliance with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)**

Risk: Breach of GDPR.

Mitigation:

i. Adherence to established protocols and procedures as advised by Data Protection colleagues.

iv. **Breach of Subsidy or Procurement Regulations**

Risk: Non-compliance with subsidy and procurement rules.

Mitigation:

i. Completed subsidy assessments and follow NCC's procurement processes consistently.

v. **Programme Fraud Risk**

Risk: Potential for programme fraud targeting Nottingham City Council.

Mitigation:

i. Implement fraud mitigation measures identified in MHCLG's 2024 UKSPF Fraud Risk Assessment.

vi. **Premature Open Call Competitions**

Risk: Starting open call competitions before signing the funding agreement with EMCCA.

Mitigation:

i. Grant agreements with successful applicants will not be signed until the EMCCA agreement is finalised.

vii. **Inflationary Pressures**

Risk: Rising inflation could impact the cost of works and services.

Mitigation:

i. Scale back procurement scope to align with the available budget in the event of significant inflation-driven price increases.

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

5.1 Best value will be a key factor in the open call competitions that are used to determine which organisations will receive grants to deliver projects in the 2025-26 financial year.

6 Commissioner comments

6.1 The Commissioners are content with the report.

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

7.1 UKSPF East Midlands County Combined Authority (EMCCA) have confirmed that NCC will be allocated additional capital funds as part of the 2025-26 UK Shared Prosperity Fund extension. This is an extension to the existing UKSPF project (Capital project numbers 301891, 301892 and 301893), see below for proposed split of funding:

UKSPF Strand	Capital Project No	2025-26 Allocation
Communities & Place	Capital Project No - 301891	£915,000
Local Business	Capital Project No - 301892	£450,965
People & Skills	Capital Project No - 301893	£175,000

7.2 This is external funding available to spend in the 2025-26 FY only. Any money unspent cannot be considered for savings as any unspent funding must be returned to Government via EMCCA at the end of the financial year.

7.3 The figures provided are currently indicative but will be confirmed by EMCCA in February 2025.

Victoria Gelderd – Strategic Capital Accountant 14/01/2025

7.4 The ongoing UK SPF programme will be given, at maximum £4.75m funding to Nottingham City Council for 2025/2026. This will be split by Capital 1.541m and Revenue 3.209m assuming the maximum figure is obtained.

7.5 The Council will fulfil the role of Accountable Body. As such, the Council will be responsible for compliance to all grant conditions and in undertaking this role will apply the Council’s Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules to all expenditure. Slippage is a key risk, therefore accurate reporting to EMCCA, in forecasting and updating of budgets is paramount.

7.6 The Project Management Team will ensure delivery of the project within these parameters, and this will be fully funded from within the allocations for management fee that are permitted within the overall funding. This is 4% for the SPF. There will be no pressure on the Economic Development Service budget and no call on it. UKSPF funding is both revenue and capital and there is a minimum capital allocation that must be adhered to. This will all be monitored to ensure adherence to conditions by the Project Management Team.

7.7 The year’s funding is sent at the beginning of the financial year and the reporting and performance framework required in relation to this funding is set out in detail on From EMCCA and the Project Management Team will ensure full compliance. At financial year end, the Project Management Team will need to work with Finance to ensure correct, timely procedure, with any underspends being returned to EMCCA then on to central government.

Paul Rogers - Commercial Finance Business Partner (Growth and City Development) – 14/01/2025

8. Legal colleague comments

8.1 This report seeks authority to accept UKSPF funding for 2025-26 from EMCAA, subject to agree the terms of a funding agreement, and to delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Growth and City Development to use

such funding and, therefore, award and sign contracts and grant agreements associated with the project delivery.

- 8.2 The 2025-26 funding is an extension to an existing funding programme that the Council has benefitted from. Whilst the funding is now being routed via EMCAA rather than given directly to the Council, on this basis, the terms to be imposed on the use of such funding should be familiar to the Council; this report, therefore, presents no significant legal risks if those terms are complied with. Legal Services are happy to support in reviewing any agreements with EMCAA and 3rd party recipients of this grant funding
- 8.3 It is understood that HR have been fully involved in the development of this proposal and funding is available to meet potential liabilities.

Anthony Heath, Head of Legal Services, 9th January 2025

9. Procurement Colleague comments

This report relates to the receipt and expenditure UK Shared Prosperity Funding as allocated to the Council for the financial year 2025-26. It proposes the delegation of authority for the allocation of funds for the delivery of projects through a combination of open call grant competition, the procurement of contracts, and in-house delivery.

All funding must be used in accordance with the Government's grant conditions and must be compliant with the applicable UK Procurement Regulations and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (Article 18 of the Constitution). In relation to funding proposed to be awarded to external agencies as grants, there are no procurement implications, provided Legal Services confirm that the arrangements constitute grants and not contracts. In relation to the award contracts for the provision of goods, works or services, a compliant procurement process or framework call off must be undertaken. The Procurement team should be consulted at the earliest opportunity on the specific requirements for funding, in order to advise on the appropriate route to market and support as needed.

Jo Pettifor, Category Manager – People, 9th January 2025

10. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)

While economic prosperity alone does not eliminate crime and disorder, it plays a pivotal role in addressing their root causes, creating environments that promote lawful and harmonious living. The People & Skills and Communities & Place projects and initiatives funded through the extension of the UKSPF programme will continue to impact on the following:

- **Poverty Reduction:** Economic prosperity decreases poverty levels, which are strongly correlated with certain types of crime, such as theft, burglary, and other economically motivated offenses.
- **Financial Security:** When individuals and families have stable incomes, they are less likely to resort to illegal activities to meet basic needs.

- **Investment in public infrastructure**, such as parks and community venues which discourage criminal activity by fostering social cohesion and engagement.

11. Social value considerations (If Applicable)

The extended UKSPF programme will create social value by reducing inequalities, fostering economic resilience, and investing in local infrastructure, skills, and communities to deliver long-term benefits.

- **Improve Economic Inclusion through Targeted Support** – by directing resources to disadvantaged areas, fostering economic inclusion and reducing inequality.
- **Support skills development** - by equipping economically inactive individuals to gain the skills needed for to transition into employment, boosting local economies and personal well-being.
- **Improving Social Infrastructure** – by funding improvements to community venues and spaces, enhancing social cohesion, reducing isolation, and creating environments where people can thrive.
- **Sustainable Development** - by funding projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions and contributing to environmental improvements
- **Health and Leisure** - by improving public spaces and recreational facilities, promoting healthier lifestyles and fostering community connections.
- **Economic Growth**: Small business grants and entrepreneurial support schemes have empowered local enterprises, creating jobs and fostering innovation.
- **Cultural and Social Projects**: Arts and heritage projects help to revitalise local identity and community pride.

12. Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)

12.1 Not Applicable

13 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

No

An Equality Impact Assessment was completed for the existing UKSPF Programme. This extension will continue to fund projects which support the residents, households and communities identified in this original document

Yes

14 Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

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

No

A DPIA is not required because the extension will continue to use the DPIA which is already in place for the existing UKSPF Programme.

Yes

15 Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

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

No

Once the projects and initiatives to be funded using the additional UKSPF funds have been agreed a Carbon Impact Assessment will be completed and due regard will be given to any implications identified within it.

Yes

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

Not applicable

17 Published documents referred to in this report

Not applicable

This page is intentionally left blank

Subject:	Development of site of United Reform Church, Clifton for Social Housing
Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):	Nicki Jenkins, Interim Corporate Director for Growth & City Development Geoff Wharton, Consultant Strategic Director of Housing
Executive Member(s):	Cllr Jay Hayes, Executive Member for Housing and Planning
Report author and contact details:	Ceri Davies, Regeneration Team Leader Ceri.davies@nottinghamcity.gov.uk x.63530
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Beverley Gouveia – Interim Director of Economic Development & Property David Worthington – Interim Senior HRA Accountant Tom Button – Team Leader, Contracts and Commercial Dawn Cafferty – Interim Head of Procurement
Subject to call-in: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Key Decision: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Criteria for Key Decision:	
(a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £750,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision	
and/or	
(b) Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Type of expenditure: <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital If Capital, provide the date considered by Capital Board Date: 22nd January 2025	
Total value of the decision: £6.399m	
Section 151 Officer expenditure approval Has the spend been approved by the Section 151 Officer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/a Spend Control Board approval reference number: Not applicable	
Commissioner Consideration Has this report been shared with the Commissioners' Office? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Any comments the Commissioners wish to provide are listed below.	
Wards affected: Clifton East	
Date of consultation with Executive Member(s): 23rd September 2024	
Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:	
Clean, Green and Connected Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safer Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Living Well in Our Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve the City Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Better Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Serving People Well	<input type="checkbox"/>

Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):

Development of the site of United Reform Church in Clifton East by Nottingham City Council for social housing. The site is in the HRA and the development will be accounted for in the Housing Revenue Account, the scheme funded by a combination of Right to Buy Replacement Fund Receipts (RTB RF) and HRA revenue contribution if required.

The scheme capitalises on the recently enhanced accessibility of RTB RF to entirely fund new social housing and would deliver 35 homes assisting in address of NCC's 10,000 plus waiting list and homelessness pressures to the General Fund.

Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication?

Appendix A to the report is exempt from publication under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 because it contains information relating to financial considerations and, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. It is not in the public interest to disclose this information because it may jeopardise value for money in the procurement phase of the scheme.

The legal advice in this appendix is exempt from publication under paragraph number 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 because it contains information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings relating to a proposed decision and, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. It is not in the public interest to disclose this information because it contains confidential legal advice in respect of the proposed decision and disclosure could prejudice the Council's position.

Recommendation(s):

- 1** To approve the development of site of united reform church for 35 units of social housing and this be reflected in the capital programme.
- 2** To approve the use of RTB Replacement receipt and HRA resource to fund the capital expenditure on this scheme.
- 3** To approve the tender of the construction phase of this scheme, and appointment of contractors thereafter, subject to a compliant procurement route.
- 4** To delegate approval to appoint and enter into contracts resulting from the compliant procurement process, to the Corporate Director for Growth and City Development

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 NCC currently has over 10,000 households on its housing register and faces significant general fund pressures from homelessness regarding the use of nightly paid temporary and emergency accommodation. Increasing the housing stock will allow for the allocation of both secure tenancies and temporary accommodation, creating throughput in established temporary accommodation and therefore reducing use on nightly paid accommodation from the private sector (e.g. Hotels). The scheme has been redesigned to include 35 flats as this will maximise the units we can deliver, considering site constraints
- 1.2 Increasing the HRA housing stock will help secure the necessary rental income over the medium to long term which is vital for replenishment of the repairs reserves.
- 1.3 Changes to the RTB RF retention agreement allowing schemes to now be 100% funded by these receipts are in place until 31st March 2026 until review,

therefore maximum benefit is gained from assigning and spending in this period.

2. Background (including outcomes of consultation)

- 2.1 The site of United Reform Church was purchased by NCC in 2020 (DDM – 3786) having been declared surplus by the East Midlands Synod, and there being a clause in favour of Nottingham City Council to be offered first refusal on the land.
- 2.2 The land was purchased with the sole intention of it being used for the development of social housing and being added to the capital programme pipeline for development.
- 2.3 Delivery for social housing allows NCC to fund the scheme wholly through RTB RF as a result of recent government announcements on the Right to Buy Receipt Retention Agreement allowing Councils to use RTB RF to meet up to 100% of the cost of development, whereas it had previously been capped at 50%. The changes to the RTB RF spending rules are confirmed up until 31st March 2026, after which they will be reviewed again. There is sufficient RTB RF available to complete the scheme if the rules remain the same and sufficient HRA revenue resource (without borrowing) if the RTB RF once again needs to be matched 50%.
- 2.4 A revised scheme is for 35 flats and seeks to maximise the footprint of the site. The design will be subject to gaining planning permission. The change in the potential number of units has reduced the unit costs and had a positive impact on the financial model.
- 2.5 The scheme will be accounted for in the HRA and let as affordable housing via the allocations policy, therefore helping meet housing need.
- 2.6 The allocation of secure tenancies to homeless households currently in priority need and currently in temporary accommodation, will allow capacity to be released in temporary accommodation and therefore reduce reliance on private/market nightly paid accommodation, which is a significant burden to the General Fund at a cost of c.£39,000 per household per annum.
- 2.7 Development and Procurement teams will set out a comprehensive and compliant route to market tender process for new build schemes entering the capital programme.
- 2.8 Contractors will be appointed pursuant to the outcome of this compliant procurement strategy, and approval to enter into contract from the Corporate Director of Growth and City Development.
- 2.9 The scheme will be monitored via Major Programmes and Building A Better Nottingham.
- 2.10 Within the cost estimates contingency has been included to cover any unforeseen costs and potential construction inflation. The use of the contingency will be managed to minimise the amount required and thus reducing the overall cost of the scheme.
- 2.11 The specification for new build affordable housing is designed to minimise future maintenance costs and the ongoing costs to the tenants who will reside in the properties. The provision of Photovoltaic panels and a fabric first philosophy will be adopted to maximise the opportunities to achieve an EPC A rating.

3. Other options considered in making recommendations

- 3.1 To sell the site (Rejected): The site is accounted for (owned by) the Housing Revenue Account, which has far less pressing requirement to generate capital receipts at present. The land is viable for development and to use any receipt

to purchase an equivalent would not present better value for money. The financial means are available to deliver this site for social housing, which present the best over all value to the council in meeting its housing needs and reducing pressures on homelessness accommodation.

- 3.2 To retain the vacant site (Rejected): To leave the site as is, and undeveloped, would waste the potential of the site to deliver to meet NCC's need at time when development expenditure is most readily met through RTB RF.

4. **Consideration of Risk**

- 4.1 Site abnormals – should abnormals or additional costs be uncovered during the construction phases, contingency has been built in on the construction costs and the overall scheme costs.
- 4.2 Reversion of RTB spend regulations. Should the RTB RF spend rules revert to less than 100% scheme costs, there are sufficient HRA resource in the form of reserves, revenue contributions to capital and funding freed up by the reprofiling existing schemes under the new rules, to meet the costs between April 2026 and completion.

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

The scheme will be delivered for Nottingham City Council and homes held in the HRA, which presents best value to our residents in terms of rents and best value to the council in terms of allocations.

Delivering the site for social housing, ensures that the additional supply directly impacts the portion of the housing market and housing need, that is most required – affordable housing – the absence of which also incurs the most acute costs in respect of temporary and emergency accommodation.

The construction of the scheme will be procured via competitive tender, ensuring best value on balance of quality and deliverability within timescales.

The scheme is majority funded by RTB RF and potentially HRA reserve/revenue contribution to capital, there is no requirement for HRA borrowing to be used, therefore no debt to accrue interest.

6. **Commissioner comments**

- 6.1 The Commissioners are content with the report

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

- 7.1 The report requests approval to include in the Housing Capital Programme the development of land formerly of the site of the United Reform Church. The land was purchased by the Council in 2020 for the development of social housing and is accounted for in the HRA.
- 7.2 In July the new Government announced changes to rules regarding the use of restricted RTB receipts. For 2024/25 and 2025/26 only Councils can finance acquisitions and all eligible new build schemes with 100% restricted RTB receipts. The change in the rules provides the Council the opportunity to develop the site as intended when the land was purchased.

7.3 An investment appraisal has been carried out and over a 50-year period there is a positive net present value (NPV) for this project. The increase in the number of units to 35 has helped the appraisal and the pay-back period is forecast to be 27 years. The results of the NPV calculation are shown in the table below

	United Reform Church
Years	HRA Development
	NPV
	£m
5	(0.196)
10	(0.272)
20	1.119
50	2.963
Total	3.614

7.4 It is estimated that the development will be completed in 2027/28 when only 50% of the expenditure can be financed by restricted RTB receipts. The latest monthly monitoring of restricted RTB receipts indicate that there will be sufficient receipts available to fund the project. The remaining capital expenditure will be financed by direct revenue contributions and the current medium-term financial plan indicates that there will be sufficient resources to fund the project without borrowing.

David Worthington Interim HRA Accountant – 17th January 2025

8. Legal colleague comments

8.1 Recommendations 4-6 are asking for authority to develop and execute a procurement strategy for the delivery of the project and to enter into any relevant contracts pursuant to the outcome of that strategy. The most suitable contracting arrangements and procurement processes (which may include an open tender or the utilisation of an existing framework agreement) will be determined in consultation with the Corporate Procurement Team and, where required, Legal Services. In any event, they must be in accordance with the Council's Constitution and relevant laws, including the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

8.2 Whilst Legal Services can support with some of the contractual arrangements that may be required, where the contracts relate to construction activity, those contracts will need to be sourced from external law firms who possess that expertise. Legal Services is happy to support colleagues using a process to identify and instruct an external law firm via a framework following a mini-competition or, with justification, a direct award. Colleagues should factor both the costs and time required for a process into their planning.

Tom Button, Contracts and Commercial, 18th November 2024

9. Other relevant comments

Strategic Assets & Property are in support of this decision as it will see the development of much needed housing in the city. The site is owned by the HRA

and as such has not been considered in the Council's review of its assets. Strategic Assets & Property will assist with property advice if required.

Advice provided by Beverley Gouveia, Head of Property. 11th October 2024.

There are no concerns or significant risks to highlight from the procurement perspective. The Commercial hub will support the service with a compliant procurement exercise in line with public procurement legislation and Contract Procedure Rules

Dawn Cafferty, Interim Head of Procurement, 27th January 2025

10. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)

10.1 n/a

11. Social value considerations (If Applicable)

11.1 n/a

12. Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)

12.1 n/a

13. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

No



An EIA is not required because this is a vacant site. The resulting new homes will be allocated via the allocations policy which is subject to its own extensive EIA.

Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

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

No



A DPIA is not required because this decision does involve the collection of data

14. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

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

Yes



Attached as an appendix, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

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

15.1 None

16. Published documents referred to in this report

16.1 Purchase of site of united reform church - [DD3786.pdf](#)

This page is intentionally left blank

Carbon Impact Assessment for flats on the site of the former United Reform Church, Clifton.

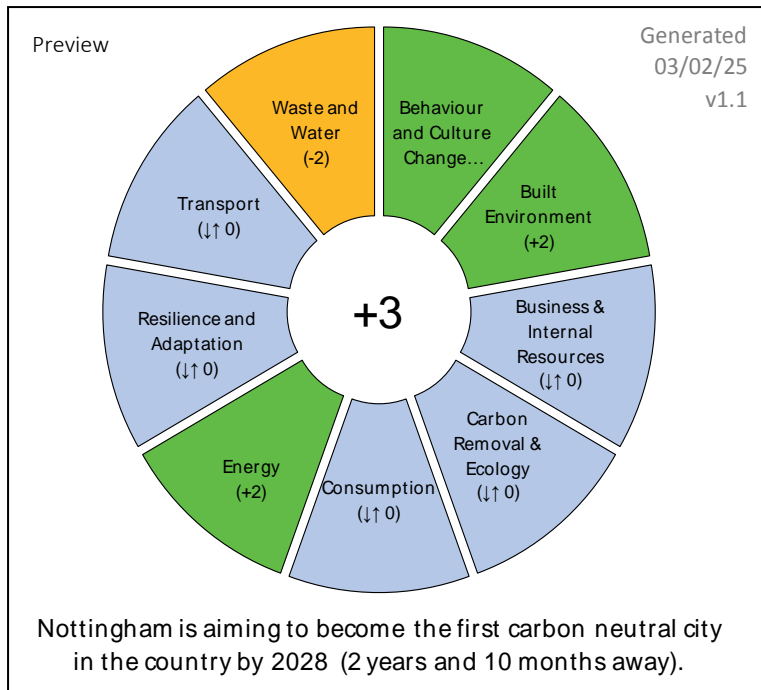
The proposed project is a block of flats on the site of the former United Reform Church in Clifton, to be socially rented by Nottingham City Council. The site is in the HRA and the development will be accounted for in the Housing Revenue Account, the scheme funded by a combination of Right to Buy Replacement Fund Receipts (RTB RF) and HRA revenue contribution if required. The scheme capitalises on the recently enhanced accessibility of RTB RF to entirely fund new social housing and would deliver 35 homes assisting in address of NCC's 10,000 plus waiting list and homelessness pressures to the General Fund.

The proposed scheme comprises around 35 1-bedroom apartments in one block of four storeys. This design will be subject to approval by planning and the homes will aim to be carbon efficient. The homes will be energy efficient with an aim to attain an 'A' SAP rating. Air source heat pumps will be used to replace gas boilers. Solar panels will be provided the building roof. The scope of this Carbon Impact Assessment is for the new build scheme only.

Carbon Impact Assessment Dashboard

The Carbon Impact Assessment Dashboard (CIAD) has been utilised to produce infographic below. This gives a modified RAG rating showing the estimated impact of a decision on different issues which influence climate change. There are both direct and indirect impacts to consider in the construction of the scheme and the subsequent use of the buildings which have been fed into the CIAD. The scoring applied takes account of the following: -

- This is a small scheme which will affect only part of a ward
- The impact of the scheme endures over the buildings' lifetime and so, long past 2028



Key Costs and Benefits

- **Behaviour and culture**

- ✓ **Working with communities** - The Home user guides given to tenants provide tangible examples of climate-positive and cost-saving measures to tenants. These include information on the benefits of solar panels and how to use smart meters to save water and energy.
- **Wider Influence** – Delivery of carbon neutral/energy efficient homes illustrating the Council’s Wider influence – commitment to carbon neutrality, enhances the Council’s reputation and provides an exemplar project for others to follow.
- **Working with partners** - NCC and contractors are bound by the specification and expectations of good practice in sustainability.

- **Built environment**

- **Building construction** - Homes will be built to the Future Homes Standard, with high-quality insulation. All homes will be EPC grade A and will have smart meters installed. However, new building comes with a carbon cost, due to emissions from construction and materials such as concrete.
- ✓ **Building use** - Proposal includes bicycle stores, bin storage with recycling and automatic lighting in hallways, though active travel could be more directly encouraged.

- ✓ **Switching away from fossil fuels** - Air source heat pumps will be used to replace gas boilers. This avoids the installation of new fossil fuel systems and decreases demand for fossil fuels.

- **Business & internal resources**
 - **Material / infrastructure requirement** – Highest possible standard materials and products to be used where possible.

- **Carbon Removal & Ecology**
 - **Biodiversity & Ecology** - Limited low-level ruderal and low-quality grass has grown on the site during disuse. This will be removed for construction and any minor impacts mitigated by BNG requirements.

- **Energy**
 - ✓ **Local renewable generation capacity** – The project will see new solar panels and ASHPs installed and therefore increase the generation of local renewable energy.
 - **Reducing energy demand** – Construction of flats in place of an unused building will create new energy demand, but this is negated by the renewable energy generation on site.

- **Resilience and Adaptation**
 - **Blue/Green infrastructure** – Green/blue infrastructure will be considered in meeting BNG legislation.
 - **Natural flood management** – There is a change of land use, but the land is already built on. Flood management should be considered in planning application.
 - **Drought vulnerability** – To be considered in the planning application - comments on building resilience and adaptation to climate change will be expected.
 - **Flooding vulnerability** – To be considered in the planning application - comments on building resilience and adaptation to climate change will be expected.
 - **Heatwave vulnerability** – Tree cover will be retained, with benefits for water retention and shade provision.

- **Transport**

- **Staff travel requirement** – There will be a minor increase in travel due to for construction and future maintenance.
- **Improving infrastructure and Supporting people to use active travel** - No new active travel infrastructure (eg. Cycle path) is being constructed. Bicycle storage already scored in categories above.
- **Reduced need to travel** – Provision of new housing in close proximity to local services including schools, shops and health services may reduce tenants' need to travel for regular tasks. Where further travel is necessary, housing will be close to public transport links, including tram and bus travel. However, it is unknown whether residents will need to travel less due to moving into these flats.

- **Waste and Water**

- **End of life disposal / recycling** – The eventual decommissioning of the flats should be considered, but decommissioning is highly unlikely within the next decade.
- **Waste volume** - Waste has previously been produced (within the previous 5 years) in the demolition of the Church building. The construction project will also increase the overall volume of waste.
- **Water use** - Overall increase in water demand due to new flats and residents.

Paul Stanley, Head of Development, February 2025

Subject:	Child Friendly Nottingham Twelve Month Progress Review
Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):	Colin Parr Corporate Director for Communities, Environment and Resident Services
Executive Member(s):	Cheryl Barnard Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
Report author and contact details:	Alison Donaldson alison.donaldson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Nigel Cooke, Ekuah Ghansah, Karla Banfield
Subject to call-in:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Criteria for Key Decision:	
(a) <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £750,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision	
and/or	
(b) Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Type of expenditure: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital If Capital, provide the date considered by Capital Board Date:	
Total value of the decision: £0	
Section 151 Officer expenditure approval	
Has the spend been approved by the Section 151 Officer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/a	
Spend Control Board approval reference number:	
Commissioner Consideration	
Has this report been shared with the Commissioners' Office? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Any comments the Commissioners wish to provide are listed below.	
Wards affected: All	
Date of consultation with Executive Member(s):	
Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:	
Clean, Green and Connected Communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safer Nottingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Living Well in Our Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve the City Centre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Better Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serving People Well	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):	
This report presents an interim update on the progress of the Child Friendly Nottingham (CFN) programme following the second scheduled six-monthly progress review by UNICEF UK, conducted at the 12-month mark.	
It aligns with Nottingham City Council's Strategic Priority Outcome of Child Friendly Nottingham and its commitment to collaborate with UNICEF UK and its partners to attain recognition as a globally accredited Child Friendly City (CFC).	
The accompanying Appendix A, outlines Nottingham's progress as of twelve months into the	

Delivery Phase of the CFN Action Plan.

Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication?

No

Recommendation(s):

1. To note the progress of the CFN Programme.
2. To commit to the active promotion of child-friendly approaches among Nottingham citizens, businesses, and broader partnerships across the public, private, and voluntary sectors, within city wards and council departments. This includes participation in Children's Rights Training with UNICEF UK to support the CFN Action Plan.
3. To foster child-friendly initiatives and methods of communication and collaboration as outlined in the Action Plan.
4. To continue to receive periodic performance reports on the CFN programme.

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 Nottingham City Council is the lead and accountable partner for UNICEF UK (UUK) in the effort for Nottingham to achieve global recognition as a UNICEF Child Friendly City. To realise this ambition, the City Council must formally adopt and support the UUK endorsed CFN Action Plan.

2. Background (including outcomes of consultation)

- 2.1 The Child Friendly City initiative is a key priority outlined in the Strategic Council Plan, which includes a commitment to working towards achieving the UUK accreditation. This partnership programme is funded by SSBC and Nottingham are one of 9 UK cities working towards Child Friendly status. The programme is a city-wide collaboration aimed at putting children's rights into practice. It focuses on ensuring that children have a meaningful voice in local decision-making processes, and that they can actively influence, and benefit from, the decisions, services, and spaces that impact their lives.

We are now halfway through the delivery phase of the CFN Action Plan¹, which began in November 2023 and spans a two-year duration. The Action Plan builds on our existing strengths while encouraging innovation, with a focus on fostering a child-friendly culture and embedding this approach into everyday practices.

Success in this programme is closely linked to the Council's ability to improve its OFSTED rating. This is crucial for the well-being of our children and will significantly impact our ability to qualify for accreditation. More importantly, it provides a foundation for future collaboration and co-production between agencies and children and young people under 18.

¹ [Making Nottingham Child Friendly - Nottingham - A Child Friendly City \(childfriendlynottingham.org.uk\)](https://www.nottingham.gov.uk/childfriendlynottingham.org.uk)

2.2 Progress Review

Throughout the delivery phase, we will continue to host training and workshops facilitated by UUK, refresh and submit an annual Child Friendly Nottingham (CFN) Communications Plan and hold six-monthly progress review meetings. These meetings will assess measurable progress across all six badges: Communication, Culture, Cooperation and Leadership, Safe and Secure, Education and Learning, and Healthy.

On November 6th, CFN held its second UNICEF UK Progress Review, which was hosted by the City as Lab.

A progress review note is provided after the review.

- Compiled by UNICEF UK.
- Provides overview of the review meeting and summary of evidence shared.
- Contains recommendations to strengthen progress moving forward.
- RAG (red-amber-green) rates progress, to provide indication of current journey momentum.

Extracts of the Progress Note, including a breakdown by badge, is included at Appendix A and in summary:

The Progress Review meeting highlighted numerous clear and positive examples of good practice being developed and implemented across Nottingham. There was a strong emphasis on capturing the voices and input of children and young people, while embedding the Child Rights-Based Approach (CBRA). The programme in Nottingham is being delivered with real energy and creativity, as evidenced by the many practical examples that demonstrate this approach with the evident commitment of the CFN team shining through.

Highlights include:

- The strength of partnership working and relationships across the city should be celebrated, and it was powerful to connect with the City As Lab team (the University of Nottingham) and learn about the developments in digital data tools to enhance creative storytelling, data analysis and community engagement specifically with children and young people locally.
- Work with Nottingham College and the Electoral Services team to revitalise the democratic strategy with a proposed voting age pilot that has the potential to lead the way nationally.
- The introduction of a Partnership Communications Task Group to draw together resources and build momentum across the city.
- As the "golden thread," the Equal and Included badge does not have specific outcomes outlined in the agreed Action Plan. However, there are several positive examples where consideration of this badge is integrated across the other badges. This reflects a positive response to the recommendation from the first Progress Review.

The overall RAG rating for the programme is currently Amber and this has changed from the Green rating from May 2024.

UUK has stated;

“There is a lot of excellent practice that is taking place across Nottingham but very little of this is being systematically captured. We suggest an open reflection for each badge area to outline how they will realistically and reliably capture good practice so far, and how this will be captured moving forward ahead of PR3 in May 2025”

UUK overall recommendations recognise the exceptionally challenging circumstances for the city and the need for dynamic and adaptive delivery in the current environment:

Recommendations:

- UUK suggest that we draw a line under the existing means of verification for Progress Reviews 1 and 2 with individual deep dive sessions for each badge area with an overhaul of the existing Action Plan to support systematic capturing of the excellent practice that is taking place across Nottingham.
- Make evidence a priority for everyone across CFN, acknowledging that it will take a lot of work and resource to create a strong evidence base.
- Ensure that the embedding of a CRBA is clear and be explicit to demonstrate the seven principles and the impact of this on children and young people across all the badge areas.

In response to this, evidence review sessions are planned in collaboration with UUK, commencing at the end of January.

The next progress review is scheduled for the 7th May 2025.

2.3 Additional Delivery Phase Update

The first city wide Nottingham Children and Young People’s Perception Survey was launched on World Children’s Day, November 20th, 2024. This survey has been designed to be accessible to a wide audience, with language and questions tailored to different age groups. It aims to complement other ongoing surveys in Nottingham, building on the existing data and insights we currently have.

On World Children’s Day children from schools across Nottingham came together to mark the day with an event at the Council House themed around ‘Your Voice Matters – Get it Heard.’ Children took part in website design, voting exercises, designing their own Nottingham children’s magazine, with Leftlion magazine, working with sports clubs Nottingham Forest Community Trust and Notts County Cricket Club and key Nottingham partners. The event highlighted the importance of children and young people getting opportunities to be heard and have their views and experiences taken seriously. The City Council Electoral Service team organised elections and voting with the children using red and green hand cards and real ballot boxes.

2.4 Implementation Plan for 2025

CFN is due two more reviews before UNICEF is scheduled to make a decision on whether Nottingham can be recognised as a Child Friendly City. This recent UNICEF review opened the door to a successful outcome for Nottingham.

However, it also flags up the potential for UNICEF to recommend a longer period of development.

Most of the recommendations outlined in this review had been anticipated prior to it taking place, consequently work had begun on refreshing and simplifying the plan across all six badges. The consistent picture described by UNICEF is one of good, sometimes leading and groundbreaking practice. Importantly, our primary activity in working towards the third review will be to address weakness evidenced.

Outline Implementation Plan:

1. An Implementation plan will be adopted by the Oversight group [the steering group for this programme] and will agree the key measures to be taken.
2. As stated previously, a review of the badges will take place with UNICEF.
3. Badges leads have been appointed in order to strengthen the programme.
4. Partner resource will be realigned to enable progress.
5. Some key activities will be prioritised and focused on.
6. Progress will be assessed after review three by the Oversight Group.
A further will report will be provided to the governance of the programme, including to the Exec Board

3. Other options considered in making recommendations

- 3.1 No action. If this activity is not undertaken, Nottingham will be unable to achieve its ambition of gaining recognition as a Child Friendly City.

4. Consideration of Risk

- 4.1 There is a risk that the Council will not achieve its ambition due to lack of resources made available to deliver the actions within the CFN Action Plan and if the support of our partners is not sustained. This risk has been mitigated against as the plan is written on a business-as-usual model and partners have been engaged at every stage of development of the programme. The CFN programme will maintain a risk register.
- 4.2 The successful attainment of UNICEF UK accreditation is contingent upon the Council improving its OFSTED rating. It is anticipated that significant progress will be made over the coming year, as development plans are already in place to drive improvements. The CFN programme provides a framework for collaboration between agencies, children, and young people.

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

- 5.1 This programme does not demand an investment of additional resources. This programme does not require additional resource investment. It is designed to leverage and strengthen existing partnerships within the council, utilizing current resources and integrating seamlessly into standard operations. The value of this initiative will be realized by optimizing existing resources and adopting a sustainable approach.

6. Commissioner comments

- 6.1 4.2 identifies that the UNICEF UK accreditation is contingent upon the Council improving its Ofsted rating and re-enforces the importance of the Council with its partners focusing their resources and energy on this as the highest priority activity.

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

- 7.1 The service has been able to secure additional funding budget of circa £100,000 to fund CFC activities until March 2026, this will support the extended delivery phase and help the project transition to financial independence. The funding has been secured from the National Lotteries.
- 7.2 The costs for this project currently sit on cost centres N-10205 and N-16500 Commissioning and procurement management costs and Children's Directorate.
- 7.3 This is all grant funding and the monies will be used to meet costs relating to the UNICEF fee, the salary with on costs for the Programme Lead and a small budget for resources to engage with children and young people during the delivery phase during 2025/26.
- 7.4 Any funding received in advance will be transferred to the year it relates to.
- 7.5 All costs will be met within the grant funding that will be received. It is anticipated that the project will be self-sufficient beyond March 2026, officers are currently working on a long-term sustainability plan.
- 7.6 The programme lead posts holder is currently employed from Nottingham city council and it is anticipated that the person will be re-deployed or will be at risk of redundancy as the project is completed in March 2026 should there be no other additional funding secured to make the project self-sufficient. Any costs arising from redundancy will have to be met within the children's directorate in line with the existing HR policies and guidance at Nottingham city council.

Nilufa Begum – Senior Commercial Business Partner – 17/01/25

8. Legal colleague comments

- 8.1 The content of the report is noted and raises no significant legal issues.

Beth Brown, Director of Legal and Governance, 16 January 2025

9. Other relevant comments

- 9.1 Additional comments were not required from Procurement / Strategic Assets and Property, HR or IT.

10. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)

- 10.1 The CFN Action Plan has the support of the Nottingham Safer and Stronger Partnership and was produced in collaboration with Community Safety and Nottinghamshire Police.

11. Social value considerations (If Applicable)

11.1 Not applicable.

12. Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)

12.1 The CFN Action Plan is supported by the Place Based partnership and the Director of Public health. CFN is also named on the refreshed Integrated Care Partnership forward plan.

13. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

No



An EIA is not required because the CFN Action Plan contains a “Golden Thread of Equal and Included” and aspects of the programme will be required to complete an Equality Impact assessment and Child Rights Impact Assessments (CRIA). Work is in progress with the EDI Team to embed the CRIA within the NCC EIA.

14. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

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

No



A DPIA is not required because as this is a broad programme co-ordinated by Nottingham City Council and containing a number of different workstreams, a DPIA will be considered in areas required within the programme.

15. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

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

No



A CIA is not required because the CFN Action Plan will not have carbon footprint beyond the current business as usual.

We have seen the strength of opinion mobilised already by our children and young people in the city around the climate crisis highlighted by the development of the Nottingham Youth Climate Assembly (NYCA). Previous work has also taken place with our Primary Parliament which also highlights the enthusiasm, interest and passion our young people have on this topic.

We therefore have identified the city’s young people as a critical priority group in the city to engage with the Carbon Neutral Nottingham 2028 (CN28) agenda. Therefore, Nottingham having child friendly status (CFC) would be hugely beneficial and complementary to that.

The CN28 action plan already contains an action to “*Engage with groups of young people across the city to raise awareness, generate ideas and promote behaviour change*”. The Council’s Carbon Neutral Policy Team lead this work and are engaging with the Nottingham Schools Trust and the NYCA to inform the development of engagement with young people. This included an initial co-creation

session with the NYCA in September 2023, with the challenge of developing CN28 communications to work better for youth audiences.

We are discussing how CFC can contribute to the development of the next phase of the 'Green Light In The City' partnership project which aims to develop community spaces for engagement and involvement with our seldom heard groups with an emphasis on the green agenda.

Members of the NYCA now form part of the city's wider Nottingham Green Partnership and it would certainly be welcome to connect the CFC programme with them as the key group working on delivery the CN28 agenda across the city.

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

16.1 None

17. Published documents referred to in this report

17.1 The CFC Progress Note Review 2 Extracts Appendix A

17.2 The Child Friendly Nottingham Action Plan is available online ([Making Nottingham Child Friendly](#)) or on request from the CFN Co-ordinating Team: child.friendly@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

UNICEF Review Extracts from Progress Review 2

Notes and Recommendations of each of the Badges

CULTURE

Outcome 1: Nottingham Councillors, leaders and staff across partner agencies confidently and consistently apply a child rights-based approach in their work

Outcome 2: Children and young people can find help from public agencies when they need to and feel confident to do so. Babies, children and young people can find help from public services and organisations who are responsive to their needs and rights.

Under this badge, some progress has been made in a challenging context. However, further evidence is required.

It was a welcome development to learn that there is a new badge lead identified and located within the Corporate function with the postholder sharing experience of culture change and a focus on applied learning and evidencing of iterative behavioural changes. Some suggested points of influence that may be of benefit to the CFC programme were offered, including existing work done in partnership with comms colleagues and considerations underway around how to weave CRIAs into existing EIA processes; demonstrating evidence of this in practice at the next PR would be most welcome.

We heard from the children who had recently participated in the Primary Parliament 'Your Voice Matters' event, during which they had interviewed each other on the topic of communications with and for children and the opportunities to be heard on different platforms. This event culminated in over 50 audio recordings, creating a compelling case for why children & young people should be part of decision making, in their own words; an excellent contribution towards the work of this badge.

There has been a very positive focus on training and engagement of the CFC programme with local businesses via the It's in Nottingham partnership. Testimony from those leading on engagement with the private sector indicated positive feedback on the child rights training offer and a meaningful commitment from private sector partners to engage in this going forward. Those teams who have completed it already are powerfully influencing and engaging peers and speaking to the importance of taking children's rights into their work. There is an appetite for engagement with the UUK Train the Trainer offer to build on this momentum.

The partnerships approach in Nottingham is a real strength of the programme locally and to be celebrated. An overview of the financial support provided by the It's in Nottingham Foundation was highlighted, with a particular focus on organisations with remits aligned with the Safe & Secure and Healthy badges. It was identified that there is a need to galvanise the expressed commitment from local partners and to turn this into action and practical delivery. Therefore, an overview of upcoming events and activities is being developed and a CRBA is being applied to shape it, including children and young people influencing what it looks like. Commitment to and upcoming dates for child rights training by football and sporting leads in the city - Nottingham Forest Community Trust and Notts County Foundation - are a very welcome addition to the thoughtful approach underway and we look forward to seeing evidence of the fruits of this approach in due course.

Transport Directors from UK Government were being hosted by City as Lab and University of Nottingham the day after our Progress Review, so there was an invitation for the practitioners present, in support of CFN, to submit a question or pose a dilemma for the Permanent Secretary's consideration. The question of why there is no longer free transport for children after 9.30am was chosen; this used to be in place and the removal is impacting on school trips, access to culture and swimming initiatives. This opportunity highlighted the strong network and points of influence available across the city when advocating for children's rights in practice.

Recommendations:

- Building on the energy and momentum of the CFN network, evidence should be co-collated by a diverse team of practitioners. A particular focus in the months ahead on developing strong

impact studies and using the CRBA templates provided by UUK will significantly contribute towards a clearer picture emerging of the work underway in this area.

- Work in partnership with your UUK Programme Officer to determine and agree a suite of strong evidence and only upload submissions from this list. Less is more; quality over quantity!

COOPERATION & LEADERSHIP

Outcome 1: Children and young people are actively involved in local decision making.

Outcome 2: Children and young people are actively involved in local democracy.

There has been a significant amount of progress in this badge area, the [review] meeting itself provided updates on the below:

- The Children and Young People's survey was launched as part of Nottingham's World Children's Day event, accompanied by toolkit and guidance. In a follow-up call after the PR2 meeting, it was great to see how the UUK core questions are now embedded in the survey, how the survey has been drafted to align with existing measures, and clear examples of consultation with children and young people to inform the development of the survey.
- Work with City as Lab on the Data Connector portal. Although this is at an early stage it is an exciting and potentially very impactful workstream, and we look forward to seeing the work to bring together a 'Child Friendly' section on the portal next year.
- Voter registration work - the team shared excellent examples of work with Nottingham College and colleagues in the Electoral Services team to revitalise the democratic strategy. The potential voting age pilot has the potential to lead the way nationally, and it's great to see this being developed, alongside consideration of using local political resources to embed this.
- As one of the core badges it was good to see the natural overlap with other badges, teams and workstreams. In particular with the shared work across the Culture badge, and the partnership working across the city, with an acknowledgement of the challenges faced. In particular the strength of the academic and cultural partnerships across the city were evident, with the additional resource this brings to the programme and it will be great to consider how this can further grow and develop over the coming months.
- An acknowledgement of the challenges the team are facing in evidencing the work so far, and how this will continue over the course of the programme.

In addition, there were a number of pieces of evidence submitted ahead of the meeting, however these didn't directly correlate with the MoV outlined in the updated Action Plan. It was nice to see a few images from the recent Hong Kong experience event, and that the MOU has been agreed with It's in Nottingham, however there needs to be clearer linkage with the evidence required, demonstration of the impact of a CRBA, and work done to pull together existing practice into a clear narrative around the successes of the badge area.

Recommendations:

- Evidence the work that has already taken place. There are so many examples of excellent practice shared as part of the PR2 Meeting, as well as the Action Plan review sessions and the regular internal meetings that hasn't yet been captured explicitly in the evidence. In particular the co-development work with children and young people.
- Further formalise partnerships across the city. Nottingham has so many excellent resources and partners across the city and region, with strong relationships already in place. It would be helpful to include these partners in the suggested review sessions for the badge area to explicitly plan what each partner can contribute to both practice and evidence. The partnership with It's in Nottingham is potentially a huge resource for the programme, and Nottingham could lead the way nationally on how partnerships with the private sector and others can benefit the CFC programme particularly when considering sustainability.
- Continue with the excellent practice in this area - we want to acknowledge that there has been so much good work in this badge area and are excited about the plans for the coming year.

COMMUNICATION

Outcomes 1: Our communications are clear, understandable, and responsive to the views of children and young people.

Outcome 2: A positive view of children and young people is widely held and promoted across Nottingham.

Outcome 3: Our communications will promote and encourage understanding of children's rights across Nottingham.

We are aware of the long-term challenges with the Communication badge, and in particular the very limited internal Communications resource within Nottingham City Council over the past year, meaning that there hasn't been a clear badge lead for a significant proportion of the Delivery phase of the programme. It is also the only badge that wasn't reviewed as part of the recent Action Plan reviewing sessions in September because of this, and so would benefit from a much more thorough exploration as part of the suggested deep-dive review sessions to clearly map out what is feasible and most impactful for the remainder of the Delivery phase. It is however very positive that the newly established Communications Task Group appears to be identifying ways of drawing together resources, identifying challenges, and building partnerships across the city.

The following is a brief summary of what was presented as part of the Progress Review meeting:

- Excellent demonstration of the good work within the Communication workstream through the recent Primary Parliament event, co-delivered with Ignite, and the 'Your Voice Matters' theme. It was attended by 129 children from 30 schools and six partners, with four workshops and a focus on developing communication skills and confidence for the children attending. It was lovely to hear recordings from the children themselves, and good quality wider outputs such as the Children can change the world blog.
- The new Task Group as mentioned above seems to have made good progress in a very short space of time, with a holistic take on the Communication badge and a broad range of thinking from a range of partners.
- The consultation work with children and young people as part of the recent survey design is a good, simple demonstration of embedding a CRBA, and with the range of forms for conducting will hopefully result in good ongoing engagement and higher quality data collection in the longer-term.
- There was a broader discussion of the potential role for children as researchers, in particular with the Nottingham Games project, and the project looking at the response to nature and potential partnership with Oulu in Finland. This creative thinking is a real strength and will hopefully provide a rich source of evidence in future reviews.
- The World Children's Day event ... well thought-out and organised, with a great and engaging offer for the children and young people attending. It again demonstrates strong partnership working across the city, in particular with the input of Leftlion staff, and the plan to use real-life voting booths as a great way of engaging children and young people in an interesting a meaningful activity.

There was a range of evidence submitted ahead of the meeting, in particular:

- The eBulletin is a great example of a newsletter for partners, pulling together updates, sharing images and resources from events, highlight upcoming opportunities in an accessible way, and incorporating the UNCRC into communications. This has been shared with other cities and communities as an exemplar, and has been well received which is a real achievement, and a resource for the wider network. The ChalleNGe wall planner was also submitted, and again is a good example of well-designed and engaging resources, as well as demonstrating strong partnership working.
- It was good to see documents such as the Comms Plan and the minutes from the recent Comms Task Group meeting, but these don't provide strong evidence demonstrating the impact of the programme itself, so consideration should be given to what can be developed to support the narrative around how the programme is creating practical change.

Recommendations:

- As noted above, the Communication badge wasn't fully reviewed as part of the recent Action Plan review sessions, so it is one to prioritise for the suggested deep-dive sessions to go through in detail to create a clear plan of how best to evidence the work, and where to focus energy and resources for the coming year. It would be great to see the Comms Task Group set the task of prioritising this, and to build on the great creative thinking already happening to develop an exciting plan.
- There have been some really nice examples of great practice shared as part of the Communication badge review - continue to develop this practice, building on learning from the range of good events and resources already established, and continue to make use of the good partner relationships that exist in the city.
- Develop a clear plan for how the great partner resources can work well alongside internal Nottingham City Council structures.

SAFE & SECURE

Outcome 1: Children and young people feel confident and safe in their communities, such as in the park, neighbourhoods and on the way to and from school.

Outcome 2: Nottingham city centre is a child friendly area which makes children and young people feel welcome, engaged, and safe.

Outcome 3: Children and young people to feel safer online and understand how to manage the risks and able to recognise how changing technologies might impact on them.

It was noted that there is an ongoing challenge in engaging with the police as an operational badge lead for Safe & Secure, despite recent in-roads with local police leads. However, the CFS team will be presenting at the Nottingham Community Safety Partnership Board soon which will offer a reset moment for this badge.

Some great recent developments include:

- The decision by the Youth Justice team to adopt the national YJ child- first, preventative approach
- Ask for Ali initiative - a promising draft proposal has been shared for this, originating from the night-time economy scheme Ask for Angela (which began in Nottingham and has been adopted internationally). This proposed, place-based scheme has been adapted specifically for children and young people but is still in the development phase.

It was fantastic to see thoughtful and reflective reference in the proposal to the 7 principles of a child rights- based approach in the evidence submitted, for example the strength of youth voice in initiating this community safety approach.

Development work is required to further strengthen the proposal in line with a CRBA and to ensure the safeguarding and wellbeing of children who avail of the scheme - there was reference to possible 'safe' venues and safety cards that could be carried by children and young people, that require deeper consideration. This initiative was born from the findings of the Youth Endowment Fund research on children's feelings of safety; there were reflections shared during the meeting about the ongoing work underway to resource the co-design of this initiative with children & young people and their parents and carers, as well as to develop meaningful connections with local businesses. It was encouraging to hear that the CFN team are considering conducting a CRIA on the development of the initiative; something we would strongly support at UUK.

Online safety work is underway with the Healthy Schools team, who are busy developing resources for children, parents and carers. The main focus thus far has been on the development of tools children can use to deal with online safety issues or to safely and confidently remove themselves from a

challenging situation. Fantastic to hear about the partnership work with children and young people to develop resources to support this approach.

During the presentation [at the review] of the PARM by City as Lab colleagues, we were delighted to hear about the enormous potential of this digital device to both present findings around safety locally and to engage with children and young people creatively on their feelings of safety within community. We learned about the existing data picture emerging when it comes to the different outcomes for communities during a heat wave depending on their proximity to green space, the current spread of street lighting, cycle- friendliness and opportunities for active travel locally and the location of CCTV. Lots of careful thought has already been given locally to the inclusion of children who are marginalised through the use of this innovative approach, with plans afoot to engage with children who are refugees to understand where they feel safe and welcome as well as the creation of a bespoke map for a neighbourhood with high levels of deprivation (Bulwell) so that children there can interact with the tool in a hyper-local context.

Recommendations:

- Within the time on the day, there was not space for further reflections on this badge, which, coupled with very little evidence submitted in advance, meant that there remain some key areas from the plan, for which there is not an update at this time. This needs to be addressed before the next progress review, for example your workstreams around safer transport and travel options and ways in which you're working together on a more welcoming and engaging city centre.
- While there is clearly some fantastic practice in certain areas of this badge, a review of the workstreams in line with the areas in which you can realistically demonstrate progress is needed. Not dissimilar to other areas of focus in Nottingham, the challenge here is the collation of high quality, clear and child rights-based evidence.

HEALTHY

Outcome 1: Children and young people are aware of what mental health and wellbeing support is available and are able to access local services. Local Health and Care Organisations and Children and Young people working close together to identify gaps in mental health and wellbeing support; collaboration and co-design enables children and young people in Nottingham to suggest solutions for these gaps.

Outcome 2: Timely support for children and young people with identified mental health need and preventative action to maintain good mental wellbeing.

Outcome 3: Nottingham will have a better understanding of children and young people's health needs and preventative health improvement initiatives that support children and young people in Nottingham to live healthier lives. Workstream 1 - Schools

None of the stated evidence was submitted, however on the day, we heard from Public Health about the various celebrated partnerships and initiatives that have been nurtured over the past 6 months in support of the work in this badge area:

- Beginning with schools on tobacco and vaping, the badge lead described a rights-based approach to developing child friendly resources in collaboration with schools and innovating with Padlet online resource packs for school. It was interesting to learn that there had been some close partnership work between police and public health when it comes to seizing illegal vape providers within the vicinity of schools.
- The Achieve Well awards will be launching by the end of the year in support of Nottingham's work on the CFC Healthy badge. This initiative will be shaped by children and young people and run by participating schools.

There were strong reflections shared on the influence of child and youth voice in this area of work; the recently collated health & wellbeing survey responses from children have demonstrably shaped the approach and chosen areas of focus (smoking & vaping, free school meals, takeaways & planning and mental health).

We learned about several areas of work that support Outcome 3:

- the work of the Thriving Nottingham healthy schools and physical activity programme - targeting rising obesity levels through careful engagement with parents, carers and children. The initiative is in operation across 3 pilot schools, working in partnership with children to introduce new foods and explore with them the different ways they might like to engage with physical activity
- the new co-produced weight management programme for teenagers; crucially this work is shaped by them with a focus on the development of skills and opportunities. Currently this is a pilot but there are plans locally to roll this out across the age group
- the launch of a community weight management play-based initiative that provides an offer of fun park activities and access to trampolines

The Best Start strategy for 0 - 5 year olds has brought together partners to discuss how 'it takes a whole village to raise a child' and how to practically put children at the centre of provision development. Included in this was a welcome reflection to incorporate the voice of the infant in order to engage with the youngest children and support their input to the development of a strategy that affects them. Evidence of this important engagement work would be a real asset to this badge.

Many health-related strategies are under development or on the horizon (Integrated Care for Children & Young People; 0- 19 Service Continuous Improvement; Suicide Strategy and accompanying listening project) alongside the relaunch of the NottAlone website and mental health resource, the Partnership award for healthy start vitamins in pregnancy and the small grants programme in support of mental health initiatives. It was acknowledged that there is positive scope for the development of CRIAs in support of these important developments; demonstrating work in this area at your next progress review would be an asset.

Recommendations:

- A review of the evidence for each workstream is needed in order to ensure that good areas of practice are being robustly captured and can be considered in the round, in support of the stated outcomes in your rights- based action plan.
- We need to see clear demonstration of the 7 principles across all your outcome areas; be explicit and consistent in how you approach this.

EDUCATION AND LEARNING

Outcome 1: Children and young people are enabled to use their imagination and creativity to celebrate diversity and their cultural heritage.

Outcome 2: Children and young people feel confident to create and access learning, skills, and training opportunities within the city, which enable them to learn new things, flourish and be guided and supported by trusted adults.

Outcome 3: Children and young people will be empowered to be active learners and champions for all children and young people's voices.

There have been a number of challenges for the Education and Learning badge - most clearly with the withdrawal of funding for the RRSA work that was they key deliverable for Outcome 3. At UUK we are currently following up with RRSA colleagues around what potential alternatives there may be, but we also suggest reflection within Nottingham around whether there are other strands of work that could potentially meet a similar aim.

In the Progress Review meeting there was a very helpful discussion around:

- How do we re-focus on delivery? There was due to be a board meeting the following week, involving both academic partners from University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University as well as the heads from the 19 Academy Trusts - it is hoped again that placing CFN at the centre of partnership working will have many positive outcomes. It was also good to hear that there has been space for reflection from the Discovery phase and the renewed focus on

anti-racism and a sense of belonging being key priorities identified by children and young people in Nottingham.

- There are high levels of exclusion in Nottingham, as well as long-term absence from school, particularly since the pandemic, and it was great to hear the thoughtful reflection around this, with a focus on restorative approaches, and what sound like excellent pilot projects - particularly built around mentoring and relationship- based work. It would be great to see this more explicitly built in to the CFN Action Plan.
- It was wonderful to hear from ChalleNGe who are a key partner for the programme in Nottingham. The reflection on inequality of access being a key challenge, provided a nice demonstration of the consideration given to the Equal and Included golden thread, and the ongoing work and programmes celebrating culture and diversity such as the 'Celebrating Languages' project and the Art of Belonging pledge. The Cultural Rucksack offer in particular is a key element of the Action Plan for the Education and Learning badge, and alongside the excellent resources produced and shared, such as the Wall planner and ongoing work such as the Cultural Guarantee pilot. A particular strength with ChalleNGe is their focus on evidencing work and impact, and doing this in a creative and meaningful way, so it would be great to see this expertise further utilised in the follow-up deep-dive review for the badge area.
- As with the other badges, it was also great to hear the organic way that other badges, workstreams and partners were all included in the wide-ranging discussion as part of the meeting, such as the linkage with the Communication badge, the Equal and Included golden thread that runs through a lot of the work, but also the range of partnerships - from linking individual local artists and creatives with partners through to Youth Leadership programmes across the broader area.

The evidence provided for this badge ahead of the Progress Review meeting was limited, but had some good examples of good practice, with Outcome 1 in particular having some nice examples of the work such as the HAF project, the Cultural Rucksack and the Hong Kong experience. However, there were significant gaps in the evidence provided, and much of the great practice evident in the meeting itself isn't referenced.

Recommendations:

- Prioritise resolving the issue around RRSA. Work with UUK and internal partners to consider and define what could be offered in place of the RRSA programme, whether there is any other practice that could meet similar desired aims, or if the Outcome itself needs to be refined or removed.
- In common with the other badges, it would be great to see the excellent reflective discussion as part of the progress review meeting itself further developed and formalised as part of the suggested deep-dive review session for the badge. It may also be helpful to consider broadening the reach of the badge, with more explicit input from people across both the council, but also the wider partners across Nottingham.
- The Education and Learning badge is probably one of the best-placed to implement and demonstrate the Equal and Included golden thread, particularly given that inclusion and anti-racism are explicitly reference in the Action Plan - it would be good to see this formalised, and to see evidence of continued creative thinking around how this is developed over the coming year.

EQUAL & INCLUDED

A kind and inclusive city

As the 'golden thread', the Equal and Included badge doesn't have specific Outcomes as part of the agreed Action Plan. However, there were some nice examples of consideration being given to the badge interspersed throughout the other badges, and this is a positive response to the recommendation from the first Progress Review that there was limited acknowledgement of the Equal and Included golden thread in the evidence submitted.

As with the other badges, Equal and Included would still benefit from consideration given as to how the impact on children and young people will be captured going forward, and if there is anything that would be helpful in trying to capture this more systematically.

There are some really nice examples of specific practice, as outlined below, and it would be great to see these further developed and incorporated in the longer term.

- HAF project - developing activities specifically for asylum-seeking and refugee children and young people
- School exclusion pilot mentioned in the Progress Review meeting
- SEND inclusion with the recent Primary Parliament
- Ignite Futures work with families who are refugees
- ChalleNGe work - celebrating language and tackling accessibility of cultural spaces, a stated commitment to engage with children in the early years in support of inclusive service design.

The authors of the UNICEF review note are Daniel Kearns and Jenni Bainbridge

A copy of the full Progress Review two note is available from the CFN team on request.

Date of next progress review: 7th May 2025.

Subject:	East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) – approval of draft Adult Educations Functions Regulations 2025
Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):	Nicki Jenkins, Corporate Director of Growth and City Development
Executive Member(s):	Councillor Neghat Khan, Leader of the Council
Report author and contact details:	Beth Brown, Director of Legal and Governance
Other colleagues who have provided input:	
Subject to call-in:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Criteria for Key Decision:	
(a)	<input type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £750,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision
and/or	
(b)	Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Type of expenditure:	<input type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital If Capital, provide the date considered by Capital Board Date:
Total value of the decision:	Nil
Section 151 Officer expenditure approval	
Has the spend been approved by the Section 151 Officer?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/a
Spend Control Board approval reference number:	
Commissioner Consideration	
Has this report been shared with the Commissioners' Office?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Any comments the Commissioners wish to provide are listed below.	
Wards affected:	All
Date of consultation with Executive Member(s):	30 January 2025
Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:	
Clean, Green and Connected Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safer Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Living Well in Our Communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve the City Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Better Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serving People Well	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):	
<p>To seek consent to making the East Midlands Combined County Authority (Adult Education Functions) Regulations 2025 (the Draft Regulations) that will confer an additional funding power to EMCCA to enable it to fund new, high-quality technical qualifications from August 2025.</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) have advised that in order to meet required Parliamentary timeframes, the consent of the EMCCA and the four Constituent Councils needs to be provided by the middle of February 2025.</p> <p>At the time of publication of this report clearance had not been received from DfE for the draft text of the Draft Regulations to be included as an appendix to this report. However, civil servants</p>	

from DfE have shared the draft text with Monitoring/Deputy Monitoring Officers of each of the Constituent Councils and of the EMCCA.

This report provides information relating to the content of the Draft Regulations so the meeting is aware of what they are providing consent for. The EMCCA will take a report to their Board Meeting on 10 February 2025 and other Constituent Councils are also seeking approval of the principles contained within the Draft Regulations which are set out in this report. Approval of any technical changes to the Regulations will be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, subject to agreement with the Managing Director\Chief Executives of each of the 4 Constituent Councils and the Mayor of the EMCCA

Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication? No

Recommendation(s):

- 1** The Executive consents to the proposed content of the East Midlands Combined County Authority (Adult Education Functions) Regulations 2025 as described in the report to include the conferral of the powers contained within S.100(1B) of the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009; and
- 2** Delegates to the Chief Executive authority to approve any additional technical amendments, which the Managing Director and Chief Executives of the other three Constituent Councils and the Mayor of EMCCA also agree to. This delegation is to be exercised in consultation with the Leader of the Council and in light of further legal advice from the Director of Legal and Governance.

1. Reasons for recommendations

The Regulations are to be made under section 19 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, which requires the agreement of the EMCCA and each of its Constituent Councils to any elements which were not included within their original Proposal to create EMCCA. By approving the Draft Regulations in early 2025, it will enable the Regulations to complete its Parliamentary passage in time to enable the EMCCA to fund new, high-quality technical qualifications from the start of August 2025, in time for the new academic year.

The delegation to the Chief Executive is necessary for the reasons given above and in case of any further technical amendments which may be required between this point in time and when the final version has been through the parliamentary counsel process and is laid before Parliament. This is consistent with the delegation which was given to the Chief Executives\Managing Director in connection with previous EMCCA Regulations.

2. Background (including outcomes of consultation)

- 2.1** Members will recall that at its meeting on 7 December 2023, Full Council agreed to the creation of the EMCCA with the Council as a Constituent Member and consented to the making of the "The East Midlands Combined

County Authority Regulations 2023” (the EMCCA Regulations), which later established EMCCA in February 2024. The creation of the EMCCA was made under powers introduced by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (the LURA). Whilst the Proposal prepared by the 4 Constituent Councils and submitted to the Secretary of State included Adult Education functions, these were not included in the EMCCA Regulations and it was recognised at the time they would be devolved by a subsequent specific statutory instrument.

2.2 Since that time, officers from the newly created EMCCA have been working with officials from the DfE on meeting the criteria for readiness for the transfer of Adult Education powers and functions. That work has been completed and it is proposed the Draft Regulations devolve the following powers and functions to EMCCA together with a number of incidental, consequential and supplementary powers and an additional function (set out in paragraph 2.3) to enable EMCCA to fund adult education matters within the EMCCA area:

- A) Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 s.86 – education and training for persons aged 19 and over and other subject to adult detention
- B) Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 s.87 – learning aims for persons aged 19 or over – provision of facilities
- C) Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 s.88 – Learning aims for persons aged 19 or over – payment of tuition fees
- D) Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 s.90 – encouragement of education and training for persons aged 19 or over and others subject to adult detention
- E) Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 s.100(1) – provision of financial resources

A to C are to be exercisable solely by the Combined County Authority and D and E are to be exercisable concurrently by the Combined County Authority and DfE Secretary of State.

2.3 The DfE currently transfers statutory adult education functions to Combined Authorities via statutory instrument (once devolution deals are agreed) so they can decide, at a local level, which qualifications they wish to fund to support skills development in their areas. The Draft Regulations will amend existing legislation for Combined Authorities to add a further funding power, specifically transferring Section 100(1B) of the Apprenticeships, Skills and Children Act 2009 (the 2009 Act), to enable them to fund new, high-quality technical qualifications alongside other qualifications already available to them. These powers will come into effect from the start of August 2025, in time for the new academic year. Specifically the additional power to be transferred is:

Core powers/duties to be transferred from the SoS to the Combined Authorities (A) Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 s100(1B)- provision of financial resources:

This is a general funding power that allows the Secretary of State to secure financial resources to approved technical education qualifications or steps towards occupational competency.

- 2.4 The transferred functions are necessary to ensure that adult learners in the EMCCA area have access to the same high-quality technical qualifications as those in other devolved, and non-devolved areas.
- 2.5 This funding power will not be applicable for adults aged under 25 who are in receipt of an EHC Plan, as they will continue to be funded from the 16 to 19 budget, nor will it apply to adults in detention, as they are funded by the Ministry of Justice.

Providing Consent

- 2.6 Government will be making a decision to progress the Draft Regulations in the near future and in order to ensure swift progress of the necessary parliamentary process the necessary consents have been requested at the earliest opportunity.
- 2.7 DfE have made clear that in order to meet required Parliamentary timeframes, the consent of EMCCA and the four Constituent Councils will need to be provided by the middle of February 2025. As a result, members are being asked to approve the principles contained within the draft Regulations as explained in this report and to specifically consent to the inclusion of the additional power in section 100 (1B) Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. In addition, it is proposed to delegate authority to the Chief Executive of the Council to consent to any technical changes to the wording of the Regulations subject to the agreement of the Chief Executives of each of the 4 Constituent Councils and the Mayor of EMCCA.
- 2.8 It is important to note that it is possible that the content of the draft Regulations may be subject to change between now and when the final version is to be laid before Parliament. The delegation to the Chief Executive will enable any such technical changes to be addressed and to avoid any delay in the final version of the Regulations being laid.
- 2.9 A statutory consultation was undertaken at the time of the Proposal to create the EMCCA and the powers within the draft Regulations are in line with the expectations set out in the Proposal approved by Council and submitted to Government. The exception to this is the Regulations do not include all the powers listed in the Proposal submitted to the Secretary of State, but does include the additional power under s.100(1B) of the 2009 Act, as a result, the Government has undertaken a consultation exercise and any responses will be considered when the Secretary of State makes a final decision.
[Consultation: Transfer of funding powers for new technical qualifications](#)
- 2.10 The additional power effectively extends those already included within the Proposal for EMCCA under S.100 of the 2009 Act and is intended to support the Government's ambition to raise the quality of post-16 education by offering high quality qualifications to occupational standards to ensure they deliver the skills that employers need. This additional funding power relates to resourcing newly reformed Level 2 and Level 3 technical qualifications to enable them to be funded from the Adult Skills Fund from the 2025/26 academic year. As a

result, the approval of consent to this aspect of the proposed Regulations is recommended.

3. Other options considered in making recommendations

- 3.1 Members could decide not to consent to the matters contained within the Draft Regulations but this would mean that the Regulations are not passed and would be likely to prevent the EMCCA operating to its optimal extent for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Area. In particular it would mean that it could not use the Adult Skills Fund to fund the new technical qualifications from the 2025/26 academic year.
- 3.2 The recent government consultation referred to above also said that “*Without this transfer, there could be significant regional differences in access to these qualifications, which could undermine national policy and limit opportunities for adult learners in certain areas. If the powers are not delegated, Combined Authorities may not be able to fund these qualifications, or they could still be funded by central government. However, this could create a lack of cohesion in the local adult education offer, as these qualifications wouldn’t be part of the broader regional strategy.*”

4. Consideration of Risk

- 4.1 Not consenting to the regulations would mean that the EMCCA cannot deliver against the agreed agenda which the Council has previously approved.

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

Not Applicable

6. Commissioner comments

- 6.1 Commissioners are content with the report.

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

There are no further financial implications arising for the Council as a result of these changes beyond those already identified and set out in previous reports to Council.

8. Legal colleague comments

The Regulations are required to enable EMCCA to undertake the range of adult education functions in line with the expectations of the original Proposal. No additional approvals are required for the majority of the powers being conferred as they were specifically referenced in the original Proposal. For the additional power under S.100(1B) of the 2009 Act to be conferred on EMCCA all four Constituent Councils and EMCCA must consent as required under s.19 and 20 of the LURA. Should one or more of the Constituent Councils not consent the Regulations would not be passed and EMCCA would have to operate without this power which Government has indicated is necessary to fund the new level 2 and level 3 technical qualifications.

9. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

No

Yes

In coming to a decision, the Council should have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under the Equality Act 2010. The PSED requires public authorities to have "due regard" to:

- The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010 (section 149(1a)).
- The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it (section 149(1b)). This involves having due regard to the need to:
 - remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic (section 149(3)(a));
 - or take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it (section 149(3)(b)); and
 - or encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low (section 149(3)(c)).

An Equalities impact assessment was carried out at the different stages of decision making in respect of the Proposal and consent to the making of the EMCCA Regulations. No additional impacts have been identified as a result of these additional powers being conferred and as the SI is an enabling piece of legislation and does not significantly change the Proposal it is not considered necessary to either amend the existing EIA or carry out further Equality Analysis.

10. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

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

No

A DPIA is not required because this decision does not include any personal data.

Yes

11. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

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

No

A CIA is not required because there are carbon implications relating to this decision as made by Nottingham City Council.

Yes

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

[Devolution Deal – draft proposal for an East Midlands Combined County Authority report](#) to Full Council 31 October 2022

[Devolution Deal – Consideration of Consultation Responses and submission of the East Midlands Combined County Authority Proposal to Government report](#) to Full Council 23 March 2023

[Consent to the East Midlands Combined County Authority Regulations 2023 report](#) to Full Council 7 December 2023

[Consent to the Combined Authorities \(Borrowing\) and East Midlands Combined County Authority \(Borrowing Functions\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024 report](#) to Full Council 30 September 2024

13. **Published documents referred to in this report**

Levelling Up the United Kingdom Policy Paper – [Levelling Up the United Kingdom - GOV.UK](#)

East Midlands Devolution Deal Policy Paper – [East Midlands devolution deal - GOV.UK](#)

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank