

# Public Document Pack

## Nottingham City Council

### The City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee

Minutes of the meeting held remotely and streamed to Rushcliffe Borough Council YouTube on 29 September 2020 from 10.32 am - 11.59 am

#### Membership

##### Present

Councillor David Mellen (Chair)  
Executive Mayor Andy Abrahams  
Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE  
Councillor David J Lloyd  
Councillor Richard Robinson  
Councillor Simon Robinson  
Councillor Jo White  
Councillor Jason Zadrozny

##### Absent

Councillor John Clarke

Also in attendance: Councillor Milan Radulovic MBE (Broxtowe Borough Council)

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

Carol Cooper-Smith - Chief Executive, Ashfield District Council  
Neil Taylor - Chief Executive, Bassetlaw District Council  
Ruth Hyde OBE - Chief Executive, Broxtowe Borough Council  
Mike Hill - Chief Executive, Gedling Borough Council  
Haley Barsby - Chief Executive, Mansfield District Council  
John Robinson - Chief Executive, Newark and Sherwood District Council  
Anthony May - Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council  
Katherine Marriott - Chief Executive, Rushcliffe Borough Council  
Chris Henning - Corporate Director for Development and Growth, Nottingham City Council  
Peter Davies-Bright - Economic Programmes Manager, Nottingham City Council  
Emma Richardson - Personal Assistant to Katherine Marriott, Rushcliffe Borough Council  
Catherine Ziane-Pryor - Governance Officer, Nottingham City Council

#### Call-in

None of the following items include any decisions which are subject to call-in.

#### 1 Welcome and apologies for absence

Councillor John Clarke - other Council business

#### 2 Appointment of Vice-Chair

**Resolved for Broxtowe Borough Council to hold the Vice-Chair role for the municipal year 2020/21 with Councillor Milan Radulovic appointed for this meeting.**

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **4 Minutes**

Subject to the following amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2020, were confirmed as a true record and will be signed by the Chair:

- a) Executive Mayor Andy Abrahams is to be referred to as such, and not Councillor;
- b) Councillor Simon Greaves is removed from the membership and Councillor Jo White is referred to as Vice-Chair as the member representing Bassetlaw District Council.

### **5 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Recovery Plans**

Anthony May, Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council, delivered a presentation which is circulated with the initial publication of the minutes and included the following points:

- a) The County Council has already published its Economic Recovery Action Plan with 11 actions, but a few months ago a new committee was commissioned 'Resilience, Recovery and Renewal Committee' at which all matters related to COVID-19 are discussed. An Economic Recovery Plan has been approved, based on 2017 Council Plan aims, with the addition of a response to COVID-19, and with consideration and inclusion of the national economic headwind;
- b) COVID-19 has slowed our town and shopping centre activity and whilst Central Government has responded with support schemes, this funding is soon to be reduced, and local action will also be necessary;
- c) The Economic Recovery Plan is proposed to be effective between now and March 2021. The three key focuses have been established as:
  - i. Supporting people with job support schemes, job creation programmes, and advancing workforce skill development. This includes employability programs and a focus, via the joint City and County company 'Futures', for young people under the age of 25;
  - ii. Develop and support inward business investment, including building resilience into town centres, focusing on Small, Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and working with universities, whilst also managing carbon reduction opportunities;
  - iii. Promote Nottinghamshire as a place, both as a visitor destination and as an attractive place to live and work with good infrastructure, logistics and digital accessibility. The market strategy is being reviewed but existing brands and heritage sites will be further promoted. (Nottinghamshire citizens now have 98.22% access to 5G broadband with gigabyte coverage up to 14%);

- d) Data provided by the Midlands Engine Economic Observatory is proving invaluable in understanding, tracking and monitoring up-to-date information on the impact and influence on the local economy. This is helping to direct and support the local recovery plan and provide statistical evidence which may be utilised in grant funding applications;
- e) With the decommissioning of the power stations, work continues with partners to provide viable future options and is progressing well with the aims of the recovery plan influencing other residential developments;
- f) Travel solutions are being considered within the County including the '20 minute neighbourhood', particularly for new and evolving residential developments, whereby the main local facilities are within 20 minute's sustainable travel from citizens' homes;

Questions from the Committee were responded to as follows by Anthony May and Councillor Kay Cutts:

- g) Nationally, business grant fraud is becoming apparent, where grants have been submitted in the name of businesses without their knowledge. The County Council's Trading Standards Team have been doing a lot of work during the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on related fraud and scams, but for more specific details, a response can be provided to members following the meeting;
- h) The '20 minute town /city' concept is gaining support across the world and the County Council is working with District Councils to promote it for new developments such as at Lindhurst, and the hubs on the sites of the soon to be decommissioned power stations. Wherever the Council can influence development with this concept, it will, including with Universities and the spaces between the development corporation sites;

Top Wighay is a development site for a new village with facilities in the centre of the village, surrounded by 805 dwellings. To discourage traffic through the village, traffic calming measures are included from the planning stage rather than retro-fitted. The school will be sited on the edge of the village, in walking distance of village properties and ensuring that parents bringing children from further away do not need to drive into village. Also, in line with Central Governments' aim to reduce the use of gas boilers by 2025, none will be installed, which will further minimise carbon emissions.

The aim with Toton development includes enhancing blue and green infrastructure and encouraging access to the countryside, whilst supporting the ability to work from home with accessible digital connections. With an emphasis on reducing the carbon footprint, the concept is to establish the framework for a community which encourages connection, reduces carbon emissions and provides a safe, healthy and attractive environment with good sustainable transport links, including to HS2, M1 and East Midlands' airport.

- i) With regard to the end of the furlough scheme in October, and the forthcoming Brexit, consideration within the recovery plan has included focus on SMEs so the launch of the Gigabyte Programme and gigabyte vouchers has been brought forward to support recovery. Both are funded by the County Council and to date 86 SMEs have been helped to get the broadband speeds they need to run their businesses;

Many of the County and City businesses are small and rely on the Councils to provide infrastructure. Discussions are taking place with regard to junction improvements along the A614, improving physical connectivity and upgrade improvements to the A1. Further details are included in the recovery action plan;

- j) The Economic Recovery Plan does, as much as is possible to take into account the potential for a second spike of the corona virus, despite the hard work within the County and City to protect communities. The Local Resilience Forum has worked very well on infection control and with Local Outbreak Management Boards, as is evident by the recent heavy fine issued to a house party and the closure of a public house, both of which refused to comply with the social distancing requirements. Joint working with good communications has proved vital to the successful work to date. It is possible that as students return, there may be an impact on infection rates as seen in other areas of the country, but Universities are working hard to carefully manage this. It is vital that advice and support to students is maintained to keep students and communities safe and keep infection rates low, particularly during the first few weeks of their return to university;
- k) With regard to HS2, even in the light of the financial impact and broader implications of COVID-19, it is still presumed that HS2 will proceed, as all enabling legislation and preparatory work has been completed. Central Government may change its mind at any point, so alternative options to progress existing planning around the key sites has been considered. The Hub station at Toton would still be a marketable site without HS2, but of course is far more attractive with HS2, which is dependent on the East Coast rail line and will provide a valuable link with the Leeds, Chesterfield and Sheffield areas. It is possible that the scheme may be slightly delayed but a public virtual exhibition will shortly be launched promoting the route the line will take, and having had such a long lead in time, a substantial delay is unlikely as the line will provide significant economic benefit.

Chris Henning, Corporate Director of Development and Growth, Nottingham City Council, delivered a presentation summarising the City Council's draft Economic Renewal Plan which is to be considered by the City Council's Executive Board in October. The presentation is to be circulated with the initial publication of the minutes. The following points were highlighted:

- l) The draft plan was developed jointly with Nottingham Growth Board which consists of major institutions including businesses and Universities, and One Nottingham;
- m) Earlier in the year, there was a positive outlook for the City with steady growth, major redevelopments progressing, including the Broadmarsh gateway to the City, investment opportunities of £2 billion available and historically low unemployment. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact and the financial outlook now is very different. Longer term analysis predicts that unemployment is projected to rise to as much as 17% by the end of 2020 with the greatest impact on low paid and unskilled workers and younger citizens, particularly within the retail and hospitality sectors;
- n) The changes in the way in which business and communities operate now provides new opportunities with a greater reliance on digital technology and resurgence of neighbourhood and sustainable living, all of which need to be built on when planning for the future;

- o) Following the financial crash in 2012, Central Government offered 'City Deal' funding to support regeneration. The City is now preparing to respond in the language of deals within the vision of a better creative, green, digital future for Nottingham;
- p) We need to build on the existing partnership bases and organisations. To date the vision is to continue to regenerate an improved City which offers opportunities for everyone, with investment support to accelerate viable private investment as part of an economic growth eco-system;
- q) The physical re-imagining of the City is also important. The former intu Broadmarsh development is now owned by the City Council and it will be re-imagined for alternative viable use, but still as a significant gateway into the City. Progress on the Broadmarsh Centre is being watched closely by many Councils across the country with similar challenge of now vacant retail space.
- r) 6 themes have been prioritised, each with a strategy and plan for investment which are outlined in the presentation:
  - i. City of creativity and culture;
  - ii. Reimagining the City;
  - iii. Carbon neutral City;
  - iv. Digital enterprise;
  - v. Entrepreneurship and innovation;
  - vi. Skills and employment;

Comments by members and responses to questions from the committee included:

- s) Discussions are ongoing with intu administrators and partners, with regard to the future of the Victoria Shopping Centre. As a profitable operating site, it appears likely that it will be sold to a consortium and will continue to operate;
- t) Public perception is vital for both City and County recovery plans and it is necessary to engage with local people and groups and ensure that they are willing to buy-into the vision which gives them hope and aspirations for an economic recovery. These plans don't appear to be providing a strong enough message to citizens. People need to see that there is hope and opportunities are emerging along with investment potential. There needs to be a clear message that these and future plans will be more resilient to change. We've had 2 economic crashes in the past 12 years with a huge negative impact on citizens. We need to assure citizens that we have a resilient workable plan from which we can build a better future and the impact of any future crashes can be negated;
- u) Resilience was demonstrated in the plan which followed the 2012 crash. It did take 5-6 years of action to build back many sectors of the economy, to lower unemployment, and regenerate and promote the creative sector, hospitality and digital industries. This was achieved via regeneration investment from the City Deal with the City Council and support from partners. It would have been incredibly difficult to have predicted what has happened with regard to COVID-19, but importantly, the past and future investment in infrastructure has been, and will be vital to support economies and encourage business to reinvest;

- v) It is noted that half of the City's workforce live in the County so success in the City is also vital to those in and around the conurbation;
- w) It is acknowledged that there are difficulties in the City that have been beyond the impact of COVID-19, but there are positive opportunities imminent such as the re-opening of Nottingham Castle, the completion and opening of Nottingham College and the launch of consultation on the future of the former Broadmarsh shopping Centre. We know it is really important to give people hope for the future, especially after lockdown. County and City need to ensure we can rebuild and attract investment. There is still much for this committee to do;
- x) The 2012 post economic recovery was responsive and reactive, instead of part of the resilience plan. Citizens need to be convinced that these recovery and resilience plans won't be based on an unsustainable mountains of debt that will impact on generations to come. We need a vibrant and robust economy which can react to circumstances. It took 5-6 years to recover from the 2012 crash, but for citizens now, tomorrow is important and they are not necessarily as optimistic as some members of the Committee;
- y) There is no underestimation of the scale of challenge ahead. There needs to be benefit for all but it won't be instantaneous and it is possible that the current situation may become worse depending on the ongoing severity of COVID-19. No-one has all the answers and progress won't be easy, but it's up to us to plan for a better future and recognise the challenges.
- z) The reason recovery from the 2012 crash took 5-6 years was due to austerity. We have to invest to accelerate recovery. Yes there will be debt, but financial and skill investment is necessary.

**Resolved to note the development of:**

- (a) the Nottinghamshire COVID-19 crisis Economic Recovery Action Plan,**
- (b) the Nottingham Economic Renewal Plan.**

**6 Verbal updates by Katherine Marriott and Anthony May**

**a N2 Environmental Project**

Katherine Marriott, Chief Executive of Rushcliffe Borough Council, provided a brief verbal update on the N2 Environmental Projects, highlighting the following points:

- a) A workshop is held every six weeks, which is attended by all local authorities throughout the County and including the City and some voluntary sector and non-profit organisations. Work has continued but is being reshaped due to COVID-19;
- b) Areas of focus:
  - i. Solar PV panels on leisure centres. Feasibility studies have been completed but there is now some uncertainty of the future shape of leisure facilities which are struggling with the impact of COVID-19;

- ii. Low carbon retro fitting of social housing continues with further funding identified;
- iii. A low carbon check list for Planners has been developed with support to help Planners and Developers, including training events for sustainable new build properties. Also a County wide low carbon Supplementary Planning Framework draft document has been developed. However, further refinement is needed now that Central Government is due to respond to future homes standards consultations;
- iv. A bid has been submitted for LGA 'Design In The Public Sector' grant funding to develop a communications platform to ensure consistent messages are issued across the county;
- v. 3 sites potential sites have initially been identification for low energy and low carbon vehicle depot sites within the wider EM region;
- vi. Reviews are being undertaken for the decarbonisation of fleet vehicles and the options for electrification of LA Depots, including changing fuel sources;
- vii. Work continues to connect with larger business to lead on carbon neutral mentoring with smaller business and encouraging 'shop local, shop safe' to support the local economy and lower fuel usage;
- viii. Re-evaluation is taking place on the approach to home working which will lower organisational carbon footprints and travel costs. This will also provide opportunities to use Council buildings more creatively in future.

## **b Brexit**

Anthony May, Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council, updated the Committee with regard to Brexit, as follows:

- a) The country is in a transition period until the end on 31 Dec 2020. Central Government is currently trying to negotiate departure terms so there is a limit to how much we can prepare with so much still unknown, but it is anticipated that a meeting on EU Summit on 15 October 2020 will be a decisive point. In the transition period so far, work has been less intense as activity has been focused on COVID-19 related matters, but the pace is quickening and effectively there are two potential directions; to leave with new terms or no terms. Locally business is preparing for these;
- b) Up to and beyond 15 October 2020, Local Authorities can expect an acceleration of Government requests for local business data.

## **c East Midlands Development Corporation**

Anthony May, Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council, updated the Committee with regard to the Development Corporation, as follows:

- a) Central Government asked the East Midlands Engine to investigate the potential for a single integrated vision and delivery vehicle to identify key sites along the HS2 line, mainly around the airport, the Ratcliffe on Soar power station and Toton hub area;
- b) The Corporation has been working with Government for 18 months and is well advanced in producing a business case, which has proved that working with an integrated approach is more beneficial than marketing sites individually;
- c) The final business case is to be submitted to Government in the spring. The 5 most effected Councils will come together and collaborate on an interim integrated vehicle and move forward while Government determines the shape and form of the final Development Corporation;
- d) There has been a lot of momentum and support across all partners, with the next key meeting in October. Progress has been positive and Central Government is encouraging and endorses the implementation of the interim stage.

# COVID-19 crisis Economic Recovery Action Plan 2020 -2022

Page 9

Anthony May, Chief Executive  
Nottinghamshire County Council



Minute Item 5

# Our vision, our approach

Nottinghamshire is  
a great place to:

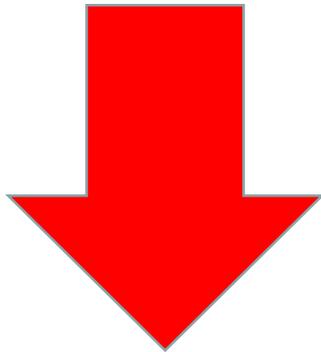
- bring up your family
- fulfil your ambition
- enjoy your later life
- start and growth your business



# The national economic headwind

- Growth in consumer spending sharply slowing down
- Footfall declining in retail parks and shopping centres

Page 11



- New Job Support Scheme and extension of the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)
- Over one million businesses will get flexibilities to help pay back loans

# The local impact of the national response





Our next steps between now and March 2021 are to:

- ✓ Job creation programme to protect family incomes and avoid mass unemployment
- ✓ Workforce development programme across Nottinghamshire to increase productivity and drive growth

Between March 2021 and October 2022, we will:

- ✓ Progress an employment & skills programme

Success means:

- ✓ Young people equipped for life
- ✓ Increased take-up of apprenticeships to give everyone the chance to start and develop their career, as well as supporting businesses to develop and grow a skilled workforce that meets their needs
- ✓ Increased numbers of people helped to re-skill and move into new careers
- ✓ Strengthened engagement between schools and employers

## Business



Our next steps between now and March 2021 are to:

- ✓ Develop our approach to inward investment
- ✓ Maximise local carbon opportunities

Between March 2021 and October 2022, we will:

- ✓ Greater use of digital technologies to improve business productivity

Page 14  
Success means:

- ✓ A single reference point for the most up-to-date information, guidance and support for businesses across our county
- ✓ Investors are kept up to date with key opportunities
- ✓ Closer partnerships are forged with business who want to invest in Nottinghamshire in order to show we are 'open for business and investment'
- ✓ Businesses across Nottinghamshire enabled and encouraged to adopt renewable energy and helped to innovate and grow, or diversify into the low carbon sector
- ✓ Start up and early stage businesses helped to discover, develop and test next generation connectivity with 5G enabled products with access to facilities and experts

## Visitor Economy



Our next steps between now and March 2021 are to:

- ✓ Develop and promote a refreshed marketable brand for Nottinghamshire

Between March 2021 and October 2022, we will:

- ✓ Support and enable the preservation, development and use of our assets

Page 15

Success means:

- ✓ An upgrading to our cycling infrastructure that allow cyclists to reach more destinations, increased take-up of cycling and reduced traffic on our roads
- ✓ The development and launch of an events programme for 2021 and 2022, which is open to our residents and showcases the unique strengths of Nottinghamshire
- ✓ Attracting even more families and visitors to Nottinghamshire from across the UK and overseas, bringing benefits to local businesses and our economy
- ✓ Sherwood Forest becoming the world's first 5G connected forest featuring 3D and 4D virtual reality experiences, semi-autonomous vehicles and drones and robots to help survey and monitor the health of the ancient woodland



**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

# Infrastructure



Our next steps between now and March 2021 are to:

- ✓ Prioritise investment and the development of post COVID-19 infrastructure in Nottinghamshire

Between March 2021 and October 2022, we will:

- ✓ Develop plans around future mobility

Page 16

Success means:

- ✓ Targeted increased coverage of Gigabit capable broadband infrastructure
- ✓ Fast tracked identified investment opportunities capable of delivering new energy efficient homes, local employment and skills
- ✓ Our new industrial development sites are resilient, enabling home working and built in places which are well located in relation to existing road and public transport networks
- ✓ Adoption of new construction technology to deliver new homes and employment sites faster
- ✓ Ubiquitous access to superfast internet speeds



Our next steps between now and March 2021 are to:

- ✓ Optimise on the economic opportunities such as town centres and decommissioning of power stations

Between March 2021 and October 2022, we will:

- ✓ Devise innovative travel solutions for short trips to improve health

Success means:

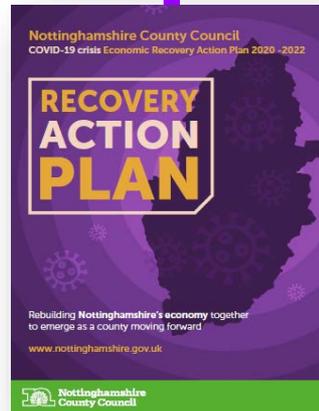
- ✓ Revitalising and revival of our high streets and town centres
- ✓ Improved health, quality of life and the environment

# Evaluating and monitoring performance

Delivery plans for the 11 actions

Continual review and refinement by drawing upon available data sets

Success factors made measurable by linking to specific key performance indicators



# Nottingham City Council



Page 19

## Economic Renewal – *our approach*

Presentation to N2 Economic Prosperity Committee

29 September 2020

Chris Henning | Corporate Director | Nottingham City Council

# Economic Context

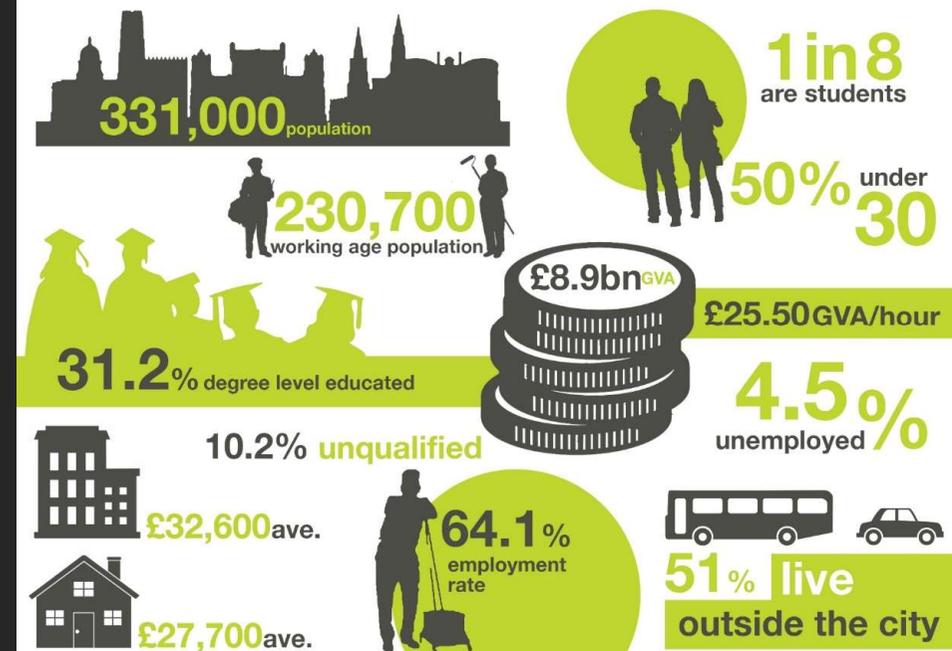
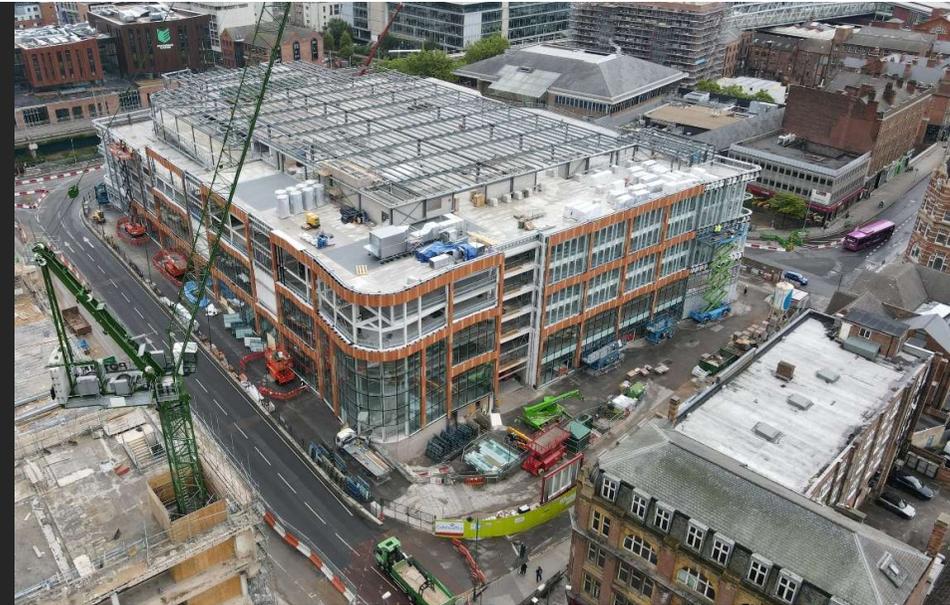
## Challenges:

- Early analysis – **unemployment in Nottingham could rise to 17%** by the end of 2020. (The highest in D2N2 – followed by Chesterfield, 12.2%)
- Impact greatest on low paid/low skilled employment and young people

Major exposure for Nottingham: retail/hospitality businesses; student numbers and risk to regeneration investment – and the financial strength of the Council and other institutions

## But also opportunities:

- Harnessing digital technology
- Resurgence of neighbourhoods
- Sustainable living



# Recovery will be built on a firm base

- Nottingham Economic Recovery Unit – driving City Council response
- Delivery organisations working together:
  - Nottingham Jobs
  - Growth Hub
  - Marketing Nottingham
  - Creative Quarter
  - Business Improvement District
- Wider partnerships:
  - Nottingham Growth Board and One Nottingham
  - Universities for Nottingham
  - D2N2 LEP
  - Midlands Engine



# Economic Renewal – our vision

Our vision is to build a creative, green, digital future – reimagining the City and reshaping the local economy so that Nottingham becomes:

- An internationally renowned city of culture, creativity & innovation
- The UK's first carbon neutral city
- A city which offers opportunities for everyone



# Economic Renewal – our approach

We are focusing on six themes to deliver our vision:

1. City of Creativity & Culture
2. Reimagining the City
3. Carbon Neutral City
4. Digital Enterprise
5. Entrepreneurship & Innovation
6. Skills & Employment



# City of Creativity & Culture

*We will build on the Creative Quarter and our Unesco City of Literature status to become an internationally renowned centre of culture and creativity.*

Key proposals:

- The Nottingham Project – 10 year programme
- Festival of Creativity 2021 – the Castle as a catalyst
- Angel Row Creative Hub
- The Nottingham story – marketing the city



# Reimagining the City

*We will physically regenerate the City to create a more sustainable and liveable place adapted for a post-Covid and more digitally enabled world.*

Key proposals:

- Transforming Broadmarsh – centrepiece of city centre masterplan
- Broadmarsh West – city centre living
- Unlocking stalled sites across the City – from Blenheim to Island Quarter
- Bringing vacant premises back into use – not just retail

*New reasons to live, work, play and stay in the City*



# Carbon Neutral City

*Through transformational green investment at scale, we will build on our track record of delivery to become the UK's first carbon neutral city by 2028.*

Key proposals:

- Council house retrofit programme
- Green Transport Corridor – step change in active travel
- Extend the tram network
- Minewater energy – testing at scale
- Future-proof our electricity network

Page 26

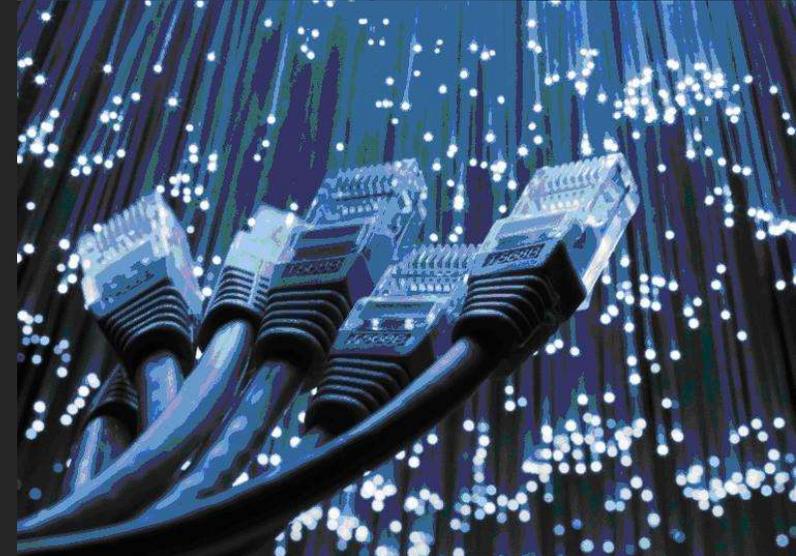


# Digital Enterprise

*We will build on our fintech strengths to enhance Nottingham as a significant national centre for digital technologies and enterprise, underpinned by a programme of upskilling across our communities.*

## Key proposals:

- Digital Incubator/Hub – enterprise & community training facility
- Excellent digital connectivity – incl. testbed for new technology
- Support fund for digital enterprise – start ups & scale ups



# Entrepreneurship & Innovation

*We will support businesses (existing, new and early stage) to survive and thrive, target growth in key sectors and develop our innovation ecosystem.*

Key proposals:

- Business Reboot Fund – to support viable businesses
- Sector Innovation Hubs & Business Investment Programme – targeted at lifesciences & healthcare, clean tech, fintech, music & creative arts
- *Entrepreneurial Notts* – a digital platform to inspire & support a culture of entrepreneurialism
- Support new business formation



# Skills & Employment

*We will prevent long-term mass unemployment by supporting a culture of enterprise and offering inclusive reskilling/upskilling programmes for citizens to take advantage of new opportunities.*

Key proposals:

- Upskilling & reskilling our communities for growth sectors
- Supporting marginalised communities into employment
- Careers Hub – to ensure careers guidance is available to all
- Apprenticeship Support Service

Building on nationally-recognised Nottingham Jobs partnership with NCC, Futures and JCP



# Next steps

- Formal adoption by City Council
- Publication of Recovery and Renewal Plan
- Work with partners to shape delivery
- Work with Government and LEP to secure funding
- Drive economic renewal – City-wide

