## **Nottingham City Council**

## **Governance Improvement Programme – Progress on implementing the Action Plan**

## 30/11/20

Recommendation 1: Using the current Strategic Review and other appropriate advice to assist with decision-making, the Council should urgently determine the future of Robin Hood Energy, with options properly evaluated and risks properly assessed. This assessment should also take into account the context of the Council's current financial position.

Action	Milestone	Accountability	Progress/Outcome	RAG
	Date			
1.1 At the June 2020 Executive Board	31/10/2020	Corporate	Completed.	G
Nottingham City Council agreed its full		Director		
support for the strategic review launched		Development &	Action was signed off as complete by the Programme	
by the Robin Hood Energy Board.		Growth	Delivery Board on 04/11/20, as covered within October's	
			Report.	
4.2 The Charles in Davies at Harris and Latter	05/40/2020	6	Constitution	
<b>1.2</b> The Strategic Review will report to the	05/10/2020	Corporate	Completed.	G
Robin Hood Energy Board and will be		Director	Additional and office and other backs and a property of the pr	
concluded shortly.		Development &	Action was signed off as complete by the Programme	
		Growth	Delivery Board on 07/10/20.	
<b>1.3</b> Any consequences of the review for the	05/10/2020	Strategic Director	Completed.	G
Council's 2020/21 budget and its medium		of Finance		
term financial outlook and plan will be			Action was signed off as complete by the Programme	
reported to full Council as part of the			Delivery Board on 07/10/20.	
October 5th interim budget report.				

Recommendation 2: The Council should review its overall approach to using Councillors on the boards of its subsidiary companies and other similar organisations. This should be informed by a full understanding of the role of and legal

Action	Milestone Date	Accountability	Progress/Outcome	RAG
2.1 An audit and review of NCC's approach to councillor membership of each subsidiary company board and any other similar organisations NCC Councillors are appointed to, will be undertaken. This review will fully involve the chief executives/chief officers of the Council's companies, as well as the Chairs and members of the Company Boards and other subsidiary organisations.	31/10/2020	Director of Legal & Governance	Action was signed off as complete by the Programme Delivery Board on 04/11/20, as covered within October's Report.	G
<b>2.2</b> As part of this review, the membership balance of the boards will be considered in aggregate in regard to best practice for achieving diversity, skill set, sectoral knowledge and NCC representation.	31/10/2020	Director of Legal & Governance	Action was signed off as complete by the Programme Delivery Board on 04/11/20, as covered within October's Report.	G
2.3 External guidance on best practice in regard to Councillor appointments on local authority companies will be sought	30/09/2020	Director of Legal & Governance	Completed.  Action was signed off as complete by the Programme Delivery Board 30/09/20.	G
<b>2.4</b> External guidance on defining the role and legal requirements for local authority company directors and guidance on skill set required will be sought.	30/09/2020	Director of Legal & Governance	Completed.  Action was signed off as complete by the Programme Delivery Board 30/09/20.	G

Recommendation 3: Where it continues to use Councillors in such roles, it should ensure that the non-executives (including Councillors) on the relevant board have, in aggregate, the required knowledge and experience to challenge

management. This is of particular importance where the company is operating in a specialised sector which is outside the normal experience of Councillors.

Action	Milestone	Accountability	Progress/Outcome	RAG
	Date			
3.1 The review of NCC councillor directors of boards in R2 will also establish the sectoral knowledge required to effectively hold the management of the different companies to account and assess the knowledge and skill set of the existing membership of the boards in relation to that sector or business area. This review will fully involve the chief executives or chief officers of the Council's companies, as well as the Chairs and members of Company Boards.	31/10/2020	Director of Legal & Governance	Completed.  Action was signed off as complete by the Programme Delivery Board on 04/11/20, as covered within October's Report.	G
3.2 Proposals for remedying any identified gaps in knowledge and/or experience will be brought forward which will include a consideration of training and if necessary, using interim additional expertise to ensure effective governance.	30/11/2020	Director of Legal & Governance	Complete subject to Delivery Board sign-off.  A review of Director training has identified significant gaps in the records held by the Council. A training specification has been produced and external providers are being engaged. Internal refresher training has been produced and delivery commenced in November 2020.  A skills audit questionnaire has been sent to members of the Programme Delivery Board for their review.  Amendments/comments to be sent directly to the Workstream Lead for Training and Recruitment by close of play on 27.11.20.	G
<b>3.3</b> Training will be devised to enable members to understand and practice	30/01/2021	Director of Legal & Governance	In progress.	G

challenge the management of the Council's companies and improve the robustness of Company accountability to the Council.  3.4 Specialised mandatory training coackages will be devised to ensure councillors appointed as chairs of council company boards are able to understand and effectively fulfil their roles  3.5 Essential training will be mandatory  3.6 Council company accountability to the Council.  30/01/2021  30/01/2021	whilst internal training has commenced.  gal & In progress.  An external training provider is currently being sourced, whilst internal training has commenced.  In progress.	G
companies and improve the robustness of Company accountability to the Council.  3.4 Specialised mandatory training ackages will be devised to ensure councillors appointed as chairs of council company boards are able to understand and effectively fulfil their roles	An external training provider is currently being sourced, whilst internal training has commenced.	G
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Councillors appointed as chairs of council company boards are able to understand and effectively fulfil their roles	An external training provider is currently being sourced, whilst internal training has commenced.	G
councillors appointed as chairs of council company boards are able to understand and effectively fulfil their roles	whilst internal training has commenced.	
company boards are able to understand and effectively fulfil their roles	whilst internal training has commenced.	
and effectively fulfil their roles		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	In progress.	
3.5 Essential training will be mandatory 30/01/2021	In progress.	
	1	G
and retention of the director role for each		
councillor will rely on completion of the	An external training provider is currently being sourced,	
raining on this recommendation.	whilst internal training has commenced.	
3.6 The relevant NCC officials will continue   With   Director of Leg	gal & Completed.	G
to be available to offer advice to members   immediate   Governance		
on all aspects of their role on Council effect	Action was signed off as complete by the Programme	
company boards.	Delivery Board on 16/09/20.	
3.7 Advice will also be sought on the best 30/01/2021 Director of Leg	gal & In progress.	G
way to assess the competence of Governance		
Councillors fulfilling their roles as directors	Policy Lead currently seeking support from the LGA/Local	
as part of effective company governance.	Partnership to provide best practice external advice.	
The group whip for each political party or		
recognised group will have a role in this		
assessment process.		
3.8 The Council's constitution will be 31/05/2021 Director of Leg	gal &	G
reviewed to appropriately reflect this Governance		
requirement and it will be proposed at the		
2021 Annual General meeting.		

provided with sufficient and appro	1			
Action	Milestone	Accountability	Progress/Outcome	RAG
	Date			
<b>4.1</b> A review of the current training package offered to Councillors as directors on company boards and other similar organisations will be undertaken.	30/10/2020	Director of Legal & Governance	Action was signed off as complete by the Programme Delivery Board on 04/11/20, as covered within October's Report.	G
<b>4.2</b> External best practice and advice will be sought from both the Local Government Association and bodies in the private sector who advise on company governance and training for directors.	30/10/2020	Director of Legal & Governance	Action was signed off as complete by the Programme Delivery Board on 04/11/20, as covered within October's Report.	G
<b>4.3</b> This review will fully involve the chief executives/chief officers of the Council's companies, as well as the Chairs and governance of Council company Boards.	30/01/2021	Director of Legal & Governance		G
<b>4.4</b> New training packages will be devised and delivered on a mandatory basis for:	30/01/2021		In progress.  An external training provider is currently being sourced, whilst internal training has commenced.	G
<b>4.5</b> > Initial training	30/01/2021		In progress.  An external training provider is currently being sourced, whilst internal training has commenced.	G
<b>4.6</b> > Refresher training	30/01/2021		In progress.  An external training provider is currently being sourced,	G

			whilst internal training has commenced.	
<b>4.7</b> > Specialist training where required to understand a particular subject/field	30/01/2021		In progress.  An external training provider is currently being sourced, whilst internal training has commenced.	G
<b>4.8</b> External sources will provide the specialist training.	30/01/2021		In progress.  An external training provider is currently being sourced, whilst internal training has commenced.	G
<b>4.9</b> This training will be reviewed every two years to ensure it remains relevant and effective.	30/01/2021		In progress.  An external training provider is currently being sourced, whilst internal training has commenced.	G
<b>4.10</b> Funding for the new training courses will need to be identified	30/01/2021		In progress.  An external training provider is currently being sourced, whilst internal training has commenced.	G
<b>4.11</b> Only Councillors who have completed the requisite training will be able to remain as Council appointed directors.	30/01/2021		In progress.  An external training provider is currently being sourced, whilst internal training has commenced.	G
<b>4.12</b> The Council's constitution will be reviewed to appropriately reflect this requirement and it will be proposed at the 2021 Annual General meeting.	31/05/2021	Director of Legal & Governance	ts of its governance structure, including the	G

## shareholder role, are properly defined and that those definitions are effectively communicated to the necessary individuals.

Action	Milestone Date	Accountability	Progress/Outcome	RAG
<b>5.1</b> The Council's Constitution and Scheme of Delegation will be reviewed to identify the roles that perform a specific function in ensuring effective governance of the Council's delivery of its duties and its powers and its expenditure.	30/11/2020	Director of Legal & Governance	Complete subject to Delivery Board sign-off. The role of the Procurement & Commissioning Executive Sub-Committee in ensuring VfM in contracts awarded to Council subsidiaries has been identified for inclusion in the review of the Committee Terms of Reference.  A documented role description and competency requirements has been produced in draft.	G
			Information/update included within November's report.	
<b>5.2</b> As part of that review, the specific corporate role, definition and resources for the shareholder representative function will be examined.	30/11/2020	Director of Legal & Governance	Complete subject to Delivery Board Sign-Off.  Information/update included within November's report.	G
<b>5.3</b> External advice and best practice will be sought to define officer roles / functions that communicate and safeguard the interest of the Council in relation to the effective corporate governance of individual council companies.	30/01/2021	Director of HR and Customer	In progress.  Policy Lead currently seeking support from the LGA/Local Partnership to provide best practice external advice.	G
<b>5.4</b> This review will fully involve the chief executives/chief officers of the Council's companies, as well as the Chairs and governance of Council company Boards.	30/11/2020		In progress.  Information/update included within November's report.	G
<b>5.5</b> Once the role and resources have been determined, costings to implement the new function and an appropriate role description (s) will be produced and	20/12/2020	Director of HR and Customer	In progress.  A documented role description and competency requirements has been produced in draft.	G

submitted for decision.				
<b>5.6</b> Whilst this review is underway the current shareholder representatives will be reviewed, any existing gaps filled and interim new role definitions will be drawn as well as appropriate training provided.	30/11/2020	Director of Legal & Governance	Complete subject to Delivery Board sign-off.  Information/update included within November's report.	G
up as well as appropriate training provided.  5.7 In addition to individual roles being identified and re-defined from the review of the constitution, there are also Council bodies that perform a vital function for the Council's effective governance. The role of the Executive Board, Companies Governance Executive Sub-Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit Committee's terms of reference will also be reviewed to ensure clarity on role and accountability for Council companies' governance across the Council. The Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny and the Audit Committee will be fully involved in this review.	20/12/2020	Director of Legal & Governance	In progress.  Terms of reference for Audit Committee, Overview & Scrutiny and Companies Governance Executive Sub-Committee have been reviewed and recommended changes are in draft.  The role of the Procurement & Commissioning Executive Sub-Committee in ensuring VfM in contracts awarded to Council subsidiaries has been identified for inclusion in the review of the Committee Terms of Reference.	G
	_		In progress.  An external training provider is currently being sourced, whilst internal training has commenced.  organisations to individual Councillors, the Councillors, with a clear divide between those in such rolls.	
those responsible for holding then				
Action	Milestone Date		Progress/Outcome	RAG

<b>6.1</b> The Council's constitution and the	30/11/2020	Director of Legal &	Complete subject to Delivery Board sign-off.	G
appointments process of Councillors onto		Governance		
Council company boards will be reviewed.			Information/update included within November's report.	
A councillor may not be appointed as chair				
of a council company board whose main				
activity lies within any executive portfolio				
they hold.				
<b>6.2</b> The length of appointment tenure	30/11/2020	Director of Legal &	In progress.	G
peyond a 12 month appointment period		Governance		
will be reviewed to enable consistency of			Information/update included within November's report.	
membership of the board and to develop				
knowledge and experience				
<b>6.3</b> An amendment to the Constitution will	31/03/2021	Director of Legal &	Additional recommendations for exclusions to membership	G
be developed for formal consideration, so		Governance	of Audit Committee, Overview & Scrutiny Committee and	
f a Councillor is appointed chair of a			Companies Governance Executive Sub-Committee have been	
company board, they are unable to also be			drafted for inclusion in the overarching lessons learned	
the chair of the Audit Committee, or			report.	
Overview and Scrutiny Committee thus				
avoiding any conflict of interest in these				
essential roles.				
<b>6.4</b> In addition, the Council will take steps	30/01/2021	Director of Legal &	In progress.	G
to minimise any other possible conflicts of		Governance		
nterest for directors on Council company				
boards by ensuring the improved training				
offer to be developed for members				
includes how to recognize and avoid any				
conflicts of interest for chairs and				
Councillor directors.				
<b>6.5</b> The access to formal advice from the	With	Director of Legal &	Completed.	G
Council's legal and democratic service for	immediate	Governance		
all councillors appointed to council	effect		Action was signed off as complete by the Programme	
company boards on conflicts of interest or			Delivery Board on 16/09/20.	
any other matter will continue to be made				

available.				
<b>Recommendation 7: The Council sl</b>	hould ensure	e that risks relati	ng to its companies are considered for inclusion i	in its
overall risk management processe	s, with appr	opriate escalatio	n and reporting, rather than being seen in isolati	on.
Action	Milestone	Accountability	Progress/Outcome	RAG
	Date	,		
<ul> <li>7.1 The Council's high level risk register was created in May 2020 and was reviewed by the July 2020 Audit Committee. A number of Council company risks were included in that new risk register. This will continue to be developed and refined.</li> <li>7.2 The Council's risk management framework will be reviewed to ensure the full incorporation of council company risks across all risk registers within departments</li> </ul>	30/11/2020	Strategic Director of Finance  Strategic Director of Finance	Complete subject to Delivery Board sign-off. CLT have been presented with the revised risk management framework and companies risk registers.  Information/update included within November's report.  Complete subject to Delivery Board sign-off. CLT have been presented with the revised risk management framework and companies risk registers.	G
and also in the new financial risk register.  A separate Council companies risk register report will be considered that explicitly draws out the risks to the Council that may arise from the financial (and other) performance of the various companies.  This review will fully involve the chief executives/ chief officers of the Council's companies, as well as the Chairs and members of the Company Boards.			Information/update included within November's report.	
<b>7.3</b> The reporting of risks to Council company boards will also be considered as part of this action.	30/11/2020	Strategic Director of Finance	Complete subject to Delivery Board sign-off. CLT have been presented with the revised risk management framework and companies risk registers.  Information/update included within November's report.	G

Recommendation 8: As the new arrangements for monitoring companies are rolled out alongside the Companies Governance Executive Sub-Committee (CGESC), the Council should ensure that financial information is provided in accordance with its requirements and is fully understood by the Sub-Committee and others involved in holding the companies to account, and that robust action, with the oversight of the s151 officer, is taken if suitable information is not provided.

Action	Milestone	Accountability	Progress/Outcome	RAG
	Date			
8.1 The regularity of the reporting of the high level risk register to the Audit Committee and the Executive Board and Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be reviewed as part of this action. The Chairs and members of these bodies will be fully involved in this action.	30/11/2020	Strategic Director of Finance	Complete subject to Delivery Board sign-off. CLT have been presented with the revised risk management framework and companies risk registers.  Information/update included within November's report.	G
<b>8.2</b> The proposed Council companies risk register should form part of the suite of reporting information presented to the Companies Governance Executive Subcommittee.	30/11/2020		Complete subject to Delivery Board sign-off. CLT have been presented with the revised risk management framework and companies risk registers.  Information/update included within November's report.	G
<b>8.3</b> The Companies Governance Executive Sub-Committee (CGESC) has been meeting since 2019 and has established reporting requirements for all Council companies.	30/11/2020	Director of Legal & Governance	Complete subject to Delivery Board sign-off.  Information/update included within November's report.	G
<b>8.4</b> A dedicated senior finance post provides additional capacity and capability to managing the financial reporting requirements on the Council's group of companies.	With immediate effect	Strategic Director of Finance	Action was signed off as complete by the Programme Delivery Board on 16/09/20, however following the recent resignation of the post holder, a recruitment excess is underway by the Interim Strategic Director of Finance to fill this vacancy – 25/11/20	G

8.5 The current role and remit of the	30/11/2020	Director of Legal &	Complete subject to Delivery Board sign-off.	G
CGESC will be reviewed as to how it can		Governance		
deliver the most effective governance in			Information/update included within November's report.	
the light of The Report in the Public				
Interest.				
<b>8.6</b> Officer support is to be provided to	30/11/2020	Strategic Director	In progress.	G
offer full advice and analysis for members		of Finance		
on CGECS, Audit Committee and Overview			Information/update included within November's report.	
& Scrutiny Committee in relation to risks;				
annual reviews of & updates on business				
cases and plans; scheme of delegation;				
financial matters and overall delivery.				
8.7 The dedicated senior finance role will	With	Strategic Director	Completed.	G
also be reviewed in the light of The Report	immediate	of Finance		
in the Public Interest to ensure it is fulfilling	effect		Action was signed off as complete by the Programme	
the corporate function needed and that			Delivery Board on 16/09/20.	
departments and Council companies				
understand their relationship and new				
ways of working on this matter.				
8.8 The s151 Officer will make	30/11/2020	Strategic Director	In progress.	G
recommendations to CGESC regarding		of Finance		
action to be taken in the event that			Information/update included within November's report.	
Companies do not comply with the				
required reporting requirements.				
8.9 Council company financial information	30/11/2020	Strategic Director	In progress.	G
reporting will be reviewed to see how		of Finance		
more explicitly it can be referenced in the			Information/update included within November's report.	
regular Council budget monitoring reports				
provided to the Executive Board on a				
quarterly basis.				
<b>8.10</b> This review will need to consider how	30/11/2020		In progress.	G
to balance the transparency in the				
Council's budget reporting with the need			Information/update included within November's report.	

to retain commercially sensitive		
information in the private part of any		
public meeting.		

Recommendation 9: Within the new arrangements involving the Companies Governance Executive Sub-committee, the Council needs to ensure that responsibilities for scrutiny and risk management are given sufficient prominence, including giving the Audit Committee explicit responsibility for scrutiny of governance and risk management across the group.

Action	Milestone	Accountability	Progress/Outcome	RAG
	Date			
<b>9.1</b> The Council will review the terms of	30/11/2020	Director of Legal &	Complete subject to Delivery Board sign-off.	G
reference for Companies Governance		Governance		
Executive Sub Committee (CGESC),			Information/update included within November's report.	
Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the				
Audit Committee to ensure that roles and				
responsibilities are explicitly clear. The				
Chairs of all these bodies will be fully				
involved in this action.				
<b>9.2</b> External advice will be sought on best	30/11/2020	Director of Legal &	In progress.	G
practice in defining the roles between		Governance		
these bodies and on effective training for			Policy Lead currently seeking support from the LGA/Local	
members to understand and work in these			Partnership to provide best practice external advice.	
new defined roles and to achieve the				
prominence in practice.				
<b>9.3</b> The training packages that will be	30/01/2021		In progress.	G
offered will carry the same mandatory				
requirements for membership off these			An external training provider is currently being sourced,	
bodies to continue.			whilst internal training has commenced.	
<b>9.4</b> Specific training modules will be drawn	30/01/2021	Director of Legal &	In progress.	G
up to explicitly support the chairs of these		Governance		
bodies in carrying out their new roles.			An external training provider is currently being sourced,	

whilst internal training has commenced.

Recommendation 10: In addition to those referred to in recommendations above, the Council should apply the lessons from Robin Hood Energy in a further review of its company governance arrangements, in particular to ensure that risks are appropriately flagged and managed, as well as successfully implementing the more robust monitoring agreed by the Companies Governance Executive Sub-Committee.

Action	Milestone	Accountability	Progress/Outcome	RAG
	Date			
10.1 The Council will draw together all the varying reviews and activity as outlined above into an overall picture of its governance arrangements and from that produce a unified report on the lessons to be learnt from Robin Hood Energy Ltd.	20/12/2020	Director of Legal & Governance	In progress.	G
10.2 This learning lessons report will draw upon the effective practice of some of the other Council company boards to share those positive lessons across the group of council companies as well.	20/12/2020	Director of Legal & Governance	In progress.	G
10.3 External support and advice will be sought on how best to draw together all the learning from the reviews.	20/12/2020	Director of Legal & Governance	In progress.  Policy Lead currently seeking support from the LGA/Local Partnership to provide best practice external advice.	G
<b>10.4</b> This review will fully involve the chief executives/chief officers of the Council's companies, as well as the Chairs and members of the Company Boards.	20/12/2020	Director of Legal & Governance	In progress.	G

Recommendation 11: As part of this review, the Council should consider the appropriateness of the definition of the shareholder role adopted in the 2019 report and give it an emphasis on protection of the Council's financial interests

Action	Milestone	Accountability	Progress/Outcome	RAG
	Date	·		
<b>11.1</b> The Council's Constitution and	30/11/2020	Director of Legal &	Complete subject to Delivery Board sign-off.	G
Scheme of Delegation will be reviewed to		Governance		
identify the roles that perform a specific			Information/update included within November's report.	
function in ensuring effective governance				
of the Council's delivery of its duties and its				
powers and its expenditure.				
<b>11.2</b> As part of that review, the specific	30/11/2020	Director of Legal &	Complete subject to Delivery Board sign-off.	G
corporate role and resources for the		Governance		
shareholder representative duty will be			Information/update included within November's report.	
examined and in particular how it				
safeguards the Council's financial interests.				
11.3 External advice and best practice will	30/01/2021	Director of HR and	In progress.	G
be sought to define officer roles / functions		Customer		
that communicate and safeguard the			Policy Lead currently seeking support from the LGA/Local	
nterest of the Council in relation to the			Partnership to provide best practice external advice.	
effective corporate governance of				
ndividual council companies.				
<b>11.4</b> Once the role and resources for this	30/11/2020	Director of Legal &	In progress.	G
function have been determined, costings to		Governance		
mplement the new function and an			Information/update included within November's report.	
appropriate role description will be				
produced and submitted for decision.				
11.5 Whilst this review is underway the	31/10/2020	Director of HR and	Completed.	G
current shareholder representatives will be		Customer		
reviewed, any existing gaps filled and an			Action was signed off as complete by the Programme	
nterim new role definition be drawn up			Delivery Board on 04/11/20, as covered within October's	
and training provided.			Report.	

for its wider governance, particularly in relation to the 'checks and balances' which need to be in place, including the need for a stronger monitoring and scrutiny function and moving to a culture in which challenge of political priorities and how they are being implemented is seen as a positive.

Action	Milestone	Accountability	Progress/Outcome	RAG
	Date			
<b>12.1</b> An overarching review of the Council's wider governance arrangements will be	31/03/2021	Director of Legal & Governance		G
commissioned following advice from the				
LGA and other relevant external bodies.				
<b>12.2</b> External advice and best practice models will be considered alongside an in-	31/03/2021		In progress.	G
depth assessment of council practice to			Policy Lead currently seeking support from the LGA/Local	
date.			Partnership to provide best practice external advice.	

Recommendation 13: The Council should ensure that it reflects the financial pressures arising from RHE alongside those from covid-19, demand-led services and other areas to produce balanced and achievable financial plans for the current year and for the medium-term, without disproportionate, unsustainable reliance on one-off measures.

Action	Milestone	Accountability	Progress/Outcome	RAG
	Date			
<b>13.1</b> The construction of a refreshed Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is underway and due to be reported to Full Council in October 2020.	05/10/20	Strategic Director of Finance	Action was signed off as complete by the Programme Delivery Board on 07/10/20.	G
13.2 This will set out at a high level how the Council will balance its budget over the medium term and incorporates the financial implications for Council own companies for the overall Council budget.	05/10/20	Strategic Director of Finance	Action was signed off a complete by the Programme Delivery Board on 07/10/20, however The Strategic Director of Finance identified that there would be subsequent development of the Medium Term Financial Strategy in line	G

			with the council's budget setting process.	
<b>13.3</b> More detailed plans will be brought to Full Council in December 2020.	31/12/20	Strategic Director of Finance	In progress.  The date of full Council will be the January 11 <sup>th</sup> 2021.	Α

NCC 1 Review of Council's approach to the ownership of companies: The Council has a range of companies totally in its ownership and some owned jointly with others. These companies have developed over time and further are planned to be created during this period of office as outlined in the Council Plan. In the light of the findings of this report the overall approach of the Council to its relationship with its companies could benefit from a review.

Action	Milestone	Accountability	Progress/Outcome	RAG
	Date			
<b>OR1.1</b> Establish the basis of ownership of	31/03/2021	Director of Legal &	In progress.	G
the Council's companies and the differing		Governance		
frameworks upon which they were				
created.				
<b>OR1.2</b> Seek out external advice on the best	30/06/2021		In progress.	G
practice model of council ownership of				
local authority controlled companies and			Policy Lead currently seeking support from the LGA/Local	
managing the risks and benefits they			Partnership to provide best practice external advice.	
present.				
<b>OR1.3</b> Following that advice and review,	30/06/2021	Director of Legal &		G
construct a council framework of NCC's		Governance		
company ownership with particular regard				
to risk management and accountability to				
the Council.				
OR1.4 Review all existing companies	30/06/2021	Director of Legal &		G
against that framework and where there is		Governance		
divergence establish whether a business				
need exists to maintain the difference or				
agree changes to comply with the				
framework.				

OR1.5 Any proposed additional council	With	Completed.	G
companies should be established using this	immediate		
new framework.	effect	Action was signed off as complete by the Programme	
		Delivery Board on 16/09/20.	

NCC 2 Review of effective governance practice in NCC companies: The Council has a number of companies which have had effective governance over a number of years and which have involved elected members on the boards. As part of this improvement work it is important to understand what has made those council companies and Boards effective and how any learning can be applied to other council companies and the other recommendations in this Action Plan.

Action	Milestone	Accountability	Progress/Outcome	RAG
	Date			
OR2.1 Seek out external guidance on	31/03/2021	Director of Legal &	In progress.	G
independently assessing effective company		Governance		
governance and use this to assess the			Policy Lead currently seeking support from the LGA/Local	
governance practice of all Council owned			Partnership to provide best practice external advice.	
companies.				
OR2.2 Following that assessment, draw out	30/06/2021	Director of Legal &		G
any lessons or good practice that can be		Governance		
shared across all council companies.				
OR2.3 Work with the chairs and chief	30/06/2021	Director of Legal &		G
executives / chief officers of Council		Governance		
companies to understand any self-				
assessment models they may use.				
OR2.4 Companies Governance Executive	30/06/2021	Director of Legal &		G
Sub Committee, Executive Board and the		Governance		
Audit Committee to consider the findings				
of this review and its recommendations.				

NCC 3 Review of membership of the Audit Committee: As a solution to the pressures from the reduction in public funding of services, the Council either owns or has a major interest in a considerable number of companies. It has also pursued a policy of in-house commercialisation of some services. As such the company and commercial trading

risks it carries are more that would normally be expected for a local authority.					
Action	Milestone	Accountability	Progress/Outcome	RAG	
	Date				
OR3.1 Review of the current membership	30/01/2021	Strategic Director	In progress.	G	
of the Audit Committee.		of Finance			
OR3.2 Seek out external advice of best	31/01/2021		In progress.	G	
practice models of Audit Committees in					
local government that could bring			Policy Lead currently seeking support from the LGA/Local		
additional support to how the council is			Partnership to provide best practice external advice.		
dealing with the risks it is facing					