

Strategic Council Plan Consultation Findings: Executive Summary

Purpose/Background

Consultation and engagement has been carried out on the refreshed Draft Strategic Council Plan. The plan reaffirms our vision (Nottingham is safe, clean, ambitious and proud) and 11 priority outcomes. Citizens, partners, businesses and staff were asked for their feedback on these, if there is anything missing and what they feel is most important.

Consultation was conducted throughout July and the online survey closed on 30th July.

Methodology

- An online Survey promoted through various channels. Paper copies were provided if requested for the purposes of equality.
- Online Engagement/Question & Answer sessions carried out:
 - Citizens – 20 July 2021 – 16 attendees
 - Staff – 5 July 2021 – 19 attendees
 - Partners/Stakeholders 9 August 2021 - 26 attendees
- Feedback from Youth Council - 7 July 2021 – 24 attendees

Reponses

In total there were 325 responses across three surveys.

1. Staff – 186 responses
2. Citizens – 109 responses
3. Partners – 30 responses

The Vision

Overall respondents agree or strongly agree that the four priorities should form part of the vision. Table 1 shows the order in which respondents placed each of the priorities. In order these are Safe, Clean, Ambitious and Proud

Agree/Strongly Agree		Importance
Safe	85%	Top
Clean	83%	Second
Ambitious	75%	Third
Proud	67%	Bottom

Table 1. Agreement and importance of priorities

Although a smaller sample (30 responses), partners favoured ambitious over safe and clean when they ranked the priorities.

The outcomes

Respondents were asked to prioritise each of the 11 outcomes identified in the plan and overall there was a consensus that the priorities were the right ones.

The essential or high priority areas were:

- Financial Stability (57% essential, 29% high priority)
- Safer Nottingham (55% essential, 37% high priority)
- Serving People well (47% essential, 38% high priority)
- Keeping Nottingham Working (44% essential, 42% high priority)

Although the other areas scored lower on respondent's priority list, all of the objectives were seen as important to some degree.

The lower scores were for:

- Keeping Nottingham Moving (19% essential, 45% high priority)
- Child Friendly Nottingham (30% essential and 36% high priority)
- Carbon Neutral (27% essential and 35% a high priority)
- Improve the city centre (25% essential, 40% high priority).

When looking at the responses from partners, they felt that improving the city centre and Child friendly Nottingham were more essential than colleagues and citizens.

Open ended comments

Respondents were also given the opportunity to provide any other comments or flag any areas they thought were missing in the draft plan. A number of detailed (free text) comments were given, below is an outline of the thematic analysis:

- Focus on getting the basics right first, then be ambitious once the Council is in a more stable financial position. Focus on statutory duties like protecting vulnerable older and younger people
- The importance of the contribution other organisations and charities could provide in reaching these aims as well as involving community groups in volunteering
- Local area issues featured prominently e.g. the clean agenda, cycle lanes and safety
- Consensus that the document is long and some outcomes could be combined or reduced
- The plan needs to be further costed and considered in light of the financial situation
- Healthy should be part of the Vision
- Thinking about Businesses and how they can be engaged better in supporting the plan
- The importance of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Some example comments from the consultation have been provided below.

'Outcomes look right - now we need the mechanisms to delivery - collaboration, risk taking, community development and engagement resources to get the offer right. Then the culture change from silo services to meeting needs at earliest'

'Keep it simple, the most important things that matter to/impact our residents - do less but better!'

'I feel that as a City resident I contribute, through my council tax, to the support and upkeep of many of the amenities which are now becoming chargeable. I feel that some recognition could be given to this by providing a discount when residents use local amenities which are subsidised by the Council.'

'This is far too long and repetitive, no none will ever read it all, it needs to be more focused particularly considering existing budget constraints.'

Q&A Sessions

Three Engagement/Question and Answer sessions have been held with each group, colleagues, citizens and partners. A further session was also conducted with the Leader and Young people.

Some of the main questions/themes of these sessions were:

- There needs to be more emphasis on creative and culture in the plan and its contribution to Nottingham
- The importance and strengths of partnership working to improve Nottingham and the lives of local people and to champion the city
- What happens after 2023 as the plan only takes us up to March 2023?
- How will the council ensure it learns from previous issues around Governance?
- How can the council protect services?
- Young people highlighted if their presence in the plan was strong enough?
- How will you increase public confidence after the recent review?
- Is there a greater role for citizens and communities and how can citizens, communities etc contribute (e.g. volunteering opportunities).
- More work is needed in conjunction with the faith/community groups and the role of Further Education providers

Recommendations and Response

1. Review the feedback on providing a greater emphasis in the plan on working together/engaging with communities, faith groups, volunteering and young people
Response: Include "faith groups" alongside community groups and voluntary sector and signposting of volunteering opportunities via the community and voluntary sector and NCC Community Champions.
2. Consider a greater emphasis on young people so they are more visible in the document
Response: Amend strategic priority in the plan to include young people and include young people within Clean and Connected Communities.
3. Consider how businesses can play a greater role in supporting the plan
Response: Include role of businesses within the principles in the plan and add an additional strategic priority.
4. Make greater reference to culture and the creative arts and their role in supporting the vibrancy and economy of Nottingham
Response: Include within the principles of the plan and add additional strategic priorities to reflect the importance and contribution.
5. Consider making Equality and Diversity a stand alone outcome in the plan

Response: Our commitment to equality and diversity is at the core of our values, ways of working and is cross cutting throughout the plan. The commitment is embedded throughout the plan and is served better through a cross cutting approach rather than an stand alone theme.

6. Make clearer in the plan how we are ensuring delivery of our statutory duties

Response: Additional information added under 'tracking our progress' to make it clear how delivery and accountability of statutory duties will be provided.

7. Provide a simpler, easier to digest outline of the plan

Response: An Executive Summary of the plan will be provided.