

Executive Board
18 January 2022

Subject:	Nottingham Economic Recovery and Renewal Plan
Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):	Sajeeda Rose, Corporate Director for Growth and City Development Nicki Jenkins, Director of Economic Development and Property
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Rebecca Langton, Portfolio Holder for Skills, Growth and Economic Development
Report author and contact details:	Peter Davies-Bright, Economic Programmes Manager peter.davies-bright@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Type of expenditure: <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital	
Total value of the decision: Nil	
Wards affected: All	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s):	
Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:	
Clean and Connected Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Safer Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Healthy and Inclusive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve the City Centre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Better Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial Stability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serving People Well	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

The Council has co-developed a post-Covid Economic Recovery and Renewal Plan for the city in partnership with the Nottingham Growth Board and One Nottingham. Central to this Plan is a vision for Nottingham as an inclusive, green, creative and digitally-enabled city that offers opportunities for everyone.

The Plan sets out six key strategic themes through which this vision will be realised. It outlines work that is already underway to renew the city's economy, and sets out a strategic framework that will underpin efforts to secure the support and investment required for the city to fulfil its economic potential through sustainable growth.

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

No

Recommendation(s):

1. To formally adopt the Nottingham Economic Recovery and Renewal Plan as the strategic economic development framework for the City.

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 The Nottingham Economic Recovery and Renewal Plan has been co-developed by the Council in partnership with the Nottingham Growth Board and One Nottingham. This broad partnership brings the public sector, local businesses, educational institutions, voluntary and community sector, community representatives and civic leaders together behind a shared vision of the city's future economy and agreed common priorities.
- 1.2 The Plan sets out a strategic framework that will accelerate the city's post-Covid economic recovery and a clear vision for the city's economic renewal. This is essential if the city is to achieve its full economic potential, and to do so in a way that is both environmentally sustainable and socially just.

2. Background (including outcomes of consultation)

- 2.1 The Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns have presented a series of economic challenges. Throughout this period, the Council has been working to support local people and businesses, administering around £100 million of Covid Business Support Grants and £40 million of business rates relief, and providing skills, training and job support to over 3,000 local unemployed people.
- 2.2 At the same time, the Council has been working with Nottingham Growth Board (a partnership of some of Nottingham's key businesses, educational institutions and public sector organisations) and One Nottingham to look at the longer-term economic challenges. The pandemic has accelerated some pre-existing long term trends, such as the adoption of new technologies in the workplace and the decline of

high street retail, and reshaped our patterns of behaviour. Some of these impacts (such as hybrid working) are likely to persist, and whilst the economy is set to bounce back to pre-Covid levels by late 2022 this is unlikely to be an even recovery – some sectors (such as hospitality and retail) are unlikely to fully recover to pre-pandemic levels, whilst others (such as digital technology and low carbon) are likely to see significant growth.

- 2.3 It is also known that the pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities, and that women, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, young people, older people and people with disabilities and/or underlying health conditions have been disproportionately impacted.
- 2.4 In response to these challenges, the Council, Growth Board and One Nottingham have worked in partnership to develop the Nottingham Economic Recovery and Renewal Plan. This Plan sets out a bold vision for the city's future economy as an inclusive, green, creative and digitally enabled city, widely recognised as:
- an internationally renowned City of Culture, Creativity and Innovation;
 - the UK's first Carbon Neutral City; and
 - a City that offers opportunities for everyone.
- 2.5 The Plan sets out six key strategic themes (or 'ambitions') through which this vision will be realised (the full Economic Recovery and Renewal Plan is attached at Appendix 1):
- City of Creativity and Culture
 - Reshaping the City
 - Carbon Neutral City
 - Digital Enterprise
 - Entrepreneurship and Innovation
 - Skills and Employment
- 2.6 The Plan sets out a strategic framework that will underpin our efforts to secure the support and investment required for the city to fulfil its economic potential through sustainable growth. It builds on the city's existing strengths in creative and digital industries and the low carbon sector, as well as its cultural assets and heritage. It also responds to the significant challenges exacerbated by the pandemic by seeking to reimagine the city centre post-Covid, strengthen the city's business base, deliver growth that is environmentally sustainable and ensure that no-one is excluded from the city's economic recovery.
- 2.7 Executive councillors and senior council officers have been regularly consulted throughout the development of the Plan. A public consultation exercise was undertaken earlier this year, with the key finding that local people wanted to see greater emphasis on economic inclusion, so that the city genuinely offers opportunities for everyone. The Plan has consequently been refined so that the drive for inclusion is a theme that runs through the whole Plan.
- 2.8 The Plan sets out a clear strategic framework that will underpin the Council's efforts to secure economic growth funding. This strategic framework has supported recent successful bids for the UK Community Renewal Fund (£3 million) and Levelling Up

Fund (£18 million), and will provide the strategic rationale for future efforts to secure funding such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to enable the Plan to be delivered.

- 2.9 The Council, Nottingham Growth Board and One Nottingham will work to develop delivery plans for each of the six ambitions, setting out the actions through which these ambitions can be realised. A performance management framework will measure the impact on the local economy and economic inclusion.

3. Other options considered in making recommendations

- 3.1 For the Council to develop an Economic Recovery Plan independently: a major benefit of a partnership approach is that the collective voice of the Council working with Nottingham Growth Board and One Nottingham is aligned behind a single message and amplified. The potential economic impact is magnified by bringing together a greater range of partners, stakeholders and resources. This also ensures that the strategic framework has wide support, which is a requirement of major funding streams such as the UK Community Renewal Fund, Levelling Up Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund. For these reasons, the option of a Council-only Economic Recovery Plan is rejected.
- 3.2 To do nothing: this option is rejected as it would leave the future economic development of the city without strategic direction, and the impact of one-off projects and initiatives would be significantly less.

4. Consideration of Risk

- 4.1 There are no significant risks in the adoption of the Plan as the strategic framework for economic recovery and renewal – the greater risk would be to do nothing and not plan for the future economic wellbeing of the city. Projects proposed in response to this Plan will each contain risks that will need to be individually considered and mitigated as they come forward.

5. Finance colleague comments

- 5.1 The Plan sets out a strategic framework, it does not directly contain any spending proposals, and is therefore cost neutral to the Council.
- 5.2 Any projects that align to this framework (examples mentioned such as the Levelling Up fund and the Community Renewal fund) will seek approval to accept and spend in the relevant format based on their own individual needs and requirements.

Comments provided by Michelle Pullen, Senior Commercial Business Partner, on 8 December 2021.

6. Legal colleague comments

- 6.1 The report proposes to adopt the Economic Renewal and Recovery Plan, which is a policy document that will be implemented by the Council in the city. The adoption of the Plan is a decision to be taken by the Executive, in accordance with Article 10 of the Council's Constitution.

- 6.2 The proposals in this report raise no legal implications at this time as there is no commitment financially or contractually in implementing the Plan. However, should external spend and third party arrangements be required to action individual projects, further approvals will be necessary to ensure compliance with the Council's Constitutional requirements.

Comments provided by Dionne Scream, Senior Solicitor – Commercial, Employment and Education, on 23 December 2021.

7. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 7.1 An EIA is attached as Appendix 2 and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

8. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

- 8.1 Not applicable.

9. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

- 9.1 The Plan includes a specific focus on supporting the transition to a low carbon economy. Project proposals that are developed in response to this Plan will be subject to CIAs.

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

- 10.1 None.

11. Published documents referred to in this report

- 11.1 None.