

## Audit Committee – 25 February 2022

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Refresh of the Together for Nottingham Plan	
<b>Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):</b>	Mel Barrett, Chief Executive Councillor David Mellen, Leader of the Council	<b>Wards affected:</b> All
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<b>Other colleagues who have provided input:</b>	None	
<b>Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication?</b> No		
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>		
1.	To note the contents of the report, in order to allow the Committee to continue to provide assurance to the individual themes within the Together for Nottingham Plan.	

### 1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 To keep Audit Committee up to date with the refresh of the Together for Nottingham Plan (formerly the Recovery and Improvement Plan) in order to enable it to continue to plan and manage its assurance activities against the relevant Themes within it.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 In November 2020 a Non Statutory Review was carried out at the Council which led to a report being issued with a number of recommendations. The response to that report was the creation of the Nottingham City Council's Recovery and Improvement Plan and the establishment of an Improvement and Assurance Board, both running for an initial three year period.
- 2.2 The Recovery and Improvement Plan set out a number of actions that the Council committed to undertake in response to those recommendations across eight themes. These themes cover areas such as the Strategic Council Plan, the Council's Constitution and its Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 2.3 The initial Recovery and Improvement Plan was approved at an Extraordinary City Council meeting on the 25 January 2021. A refresh of the Recovery and Improvement Plan along with its rebranding to the Together for Nottingham Plan was approved around the time of its first anniversary, by City Council on 10 January 2022.
- 2.4 The rationale for updating the Plan was threefold. Firstly, the first anniversary provided an appropriate point at which to reflect as to what had been achieved over the course of the first year of the Plan's operation.
- 2.5 The refreshed Plan highlights the activities completed in the first year both in summary form and through updating the actions at the end of each Theme to indicate which ones had been completed.

2.6 Some of the main activities completed in the first year include:

- Approval and implementation of a refreshed Strategic Council Plan
- The creation of a new Performance Management Framework linking the Strategic Council Plan to Service Plans to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and to individual performance appraisals
- Approval and implementation of a new Constitution for the Council
- A review and re-alignment of member portfolios
- A top tier officer restructure and recruitment
- The creation of an Integrated Transformation Programme
- New or updated policies on Asset Disposals, Debt Management and a Capital Strategy.
- In depth reviews of the Council's Companies
- Training programmes created and rolled out for both members and officers

2.7 Secondly the refresh allowed the opportunity to make sure that the revised Plan was updated to better reflect current and future activity. Whilst the approach to the refresh was light touch so as not to move away from reasons behind the original plan's creation or the focus on the recommendations arising from the Non Statutory Review, it was clear that it would benefit from an update due to the following reasons:

- i. Broadening the scope of the Plan – there have been instances, particularly through dialogue with the Improvement and Assurance Board where it has become clear that further items need to be added to the Plan. Examples included additional work on the Council's Risk Management Policy and strengthening financial management training.
- ii. Further availability of information – there was early activity within the original Plan which was focussed on conducting in depth reviews into some of the Council's activities. The outcome of these reviews has given the Council a rich picture of information from which the Council is better able to plan its next steps. In some areas, for example the theme on companies, this had led to significant changes in how the Council now intends to proceed in the onward delivery of the Plan.
- iii. Next steps – whilst the Plan covered a three year period, the detailed milestones in the original version were heavily focussed on the first six months of delivery. As the activities in each of the Plan themes had developed further the refresh provides an opportunity to better articulate what the next steps will be for each theme over the remainder of the Plan's duration.

2.8 Thirdly the refresh allowed the Plan to be rebranded from the Recovery and Improvement Plan to the Together for Nottingham Plan. This change in name does not represent a change in focus but better helps to articulate some of what the Council is trying to achieve through its Transformation Programme which has become an integral part of the Plan.

2.9 A copy of the Together for Nottingham Plan is attached to this report. It largely retains the same format of its predecessor and is still split over eight themes which remain broadly the same.

2.10 The key changes to the document other than its rebranding include:

- Additional introductory sections to provide more strategic context as to how various Council planning documents fit together, the links between culture and transformation and narrative on external engagement.
- The inclusion of additional work on the Council's Risk Policy, financial management training and the development of a Four Year Medium Term Financial Plan Delivery Plan.
- Updates to how the work in the Assets and Companies Themes will be taking place.
- The addition of actions around the Council's scrutiny activity.
- An articulation of the Transformation Programme.
- Movement of Council Performance from the Theme 6, Organisation and Culture into Theme 8 Council Plan.

3. **Background papers other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

3.1 None

4. **Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

4.1 Nottingham City Recovery and Improvement Plan – Extraordinary City Council 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

4.2 Refresh of the Nottingham City Council Recovery and Improvement Plan – City Council 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022.