

Audit Committee – 25 November 2022

Title of paper:	Companies Governance Update	
Corporate Director:	Clive Heaphy – Finance and Resources	Wards affected: All
Report author and contact details:	Ian Edward – Strategic Advisor on Companies	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	None	
Exempt information: None.		
Recommendation:		
1	To receive assurance of progress against the Together for Nottingham companies theme.	

1 Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 This report provides an update on progress since the last report submitted on 24 June 2022.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Together for Nottingham plan is tracked as three projects: Commercial Strategy, Company Governance, Council-owned company review a summary of progress against each project is set out below
- 2.2 **Commercial Strategy** – A commercial strategy has been developed and is tabled for acceptance at 20 November 2022 Executive Board meeting. A copy of the strategy is provided at appendix 1.
- 2.3 **Companies Governance** – The Council has consolidated its approach to companies' governance in a framework document to Article 19 of the constitution. The Companies Governance Handbook was approved by the Companies Governance Executive Committee on 20 October 2022. Workshops to introduce the Handbook to company Board members and Shareholder Representatives have been ongoing during November. The handbook is provided at appendix 2. The handbook will be put into operation by the shareholder unit and overseen by the Councils Commercial Director.
- 2.4 **Review of Council owned companies** – Since the date of the last report the Council has sold its interests Thomas Bow Ltd and continues to progress projects with the remaining companies. At present the options for the restructuring of the NCH companies (after services transfer in April 2022) is in hand and a plan to progress the options will be presented to the Improvement Board at the end of November. Proposals have been made to transfer the services provided by Nottingham Revenues and Benefits to the Council on 1 April 2023, with a managed closure of the company following that event. Work continues on the liquidation of the former Enviroenergy Ltd company entity.

2.5 The jointly commissioned review of the longer term options to maximise participation in physical activities, and a potential revised commercial structure of NIC Ltd is at tender evaluation stage. Tender award will be made in December, with expected initial findings in March 2023.

2.6 Work is underway to progress the legal arrangements required to revise the company LGPS pension scheme and reduce future risks associated with the scheme. Timescales for completion of this work will be dependent upon the pace at which the scheme, city council and company can progress, however the practicalities of the revised arrangement once confirmed are that it will complete upon closure of the legal agreements between the three parties.

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 Together for Nottingham Improvement Plan, Companies Governance Handbook to Article 19 of the Constitution.