

# City Council – 6 March 2023

## Report of the Leader of the Council

### Corporate Director/ Director:

- Mel Barrett, Chief Executive
- Ita O'Donovan, Interim Corporate Director of Communities, Environment and Resident Services
- James Rhodes, Acting Assistant Chief Executive and Director of Policy, Performance and Communications

### Report Author and Contact Details:

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**Title: Strategic Council Plan 2023 - 2027**

**Does the report form part of the Budget or Policy Framework?**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

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

No

### Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:

Clean and Connected Communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Safer Nottingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Healthy and Inclusive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve the City Centre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Better Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financial Stability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Serving People Well	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 The Strategic Council Plan aims to inform residents, partners and stakeholders of the Council's priorities for the next four years.
- 1.2 The current Strategic Council Plan runs until the end of March 2023, and a revised Council Plan is required from April 2023 onwards.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the Strategic Council Plan 2023 – 2027.

### **3. Reasons for recommendations**

- 3.1 The Strategic Council Plan (SCP) for 2021 – 2023 runs until the end of March 2023 and an updated plan is required that is aligned with the four-year medium-term financial plan (MTFP).
- 3.2 The plan sets out our vision for improving Nottingham whilst keeping residents at the heart of everything the City Council does.
- 3.3 Our overall vision and ambition for the city are unchanged, but the wider context in which the organisation is operating has changed since 2019, including the implementation of the Improvement and Assurance Board and their subsequent awarding of statutory powers, significant real-terms funding reductions for local government, and the ongoing social and economic impacts of the 'Cost of Living' crisis.

### **4. Other options considered in making recommendations**

- 4.1 None. The current Strategic Council Plan for 2021 – 2023 expires in March 2023. A new Council Plan is required to bring together the Council's priorities and activities for the next four years aligned with the MTFP.

### **5. Consideration of Risk**

- 5.1 Performance and risk are co-reported to Directorate Leadership Team meetings and to the Corporate Leadership Team. Activities within the plan are subject to individual risk review.

### **6. Best Value Considerations**

- 6.1 Best Value is a key component of the Strategic Council Plan, and decisions and priorities within it are subject to consideration of Best Value and Social Value. Best Value decisions are taken individually against the activities within the plan.

### **7. Background (including outcomes of consultation)**

- 7.1 The Strategic Council Plan 2021-23 runs until the end of March 2023, and a new Council Plan is required for April 2023 onwards that is aligned with the four-year medium-term financial plan (MTFP).
- 7.2 The content of the 2023 -2027 Strategic Council Plan is based on divisional business plans and reflects the key priorities and statutory duties of the City Council. Deliverability of divisional plans, and subsequently the Strategic Council Plan, has been assessed and confirmed within the constraints of the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP). N.B. Nottingham City Council will hold elections in May 2023 and the SCP will be revised in line with the requirements of the Majority Group's election commitments and within the context of the MTFP after that date.
- 7.3 The draft SCP incorporates:
  - A clear vision for the city and City Council, and details of our strategic priorities for the next four years.
  - A robust policy framework to deliver against those priorities within the available resources.

- Continued commitment to the high level outcomes outlined in the previous plan, with a series of strategic priorities and detailed measurable activities underneath to support each outcome, so that services can be better held to account for their contribution to NCC's overall strategic goals.
- Continuation of our improved performance management processes at all levels through a "golden thread" that runs from the overall strategic aims and objectives at the top of the organisation, and the outcomes of the refreshed Council Plan, down to service plans and individual colleague appraisal objectives.
- A strong link to financial performance, corporate risk and our workforce and corporate health, alongside more effective internal controls and management arrangements.
- Greater clarity to employees, citizens, businesses and other key stakeholders on what our priorities are and where our resources are being directed over the next four years.

7.4 Alongside the plan, our comprehensive Performance Management Framework (PMF) underpins delivery of the plan. The PMF provides the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT), Leadership Group, the Improvement and Assurance Board and public with the necessary assurance that performance management is being undertaken in a rigorous and transparent way, with appropriate oversight and reporting of the performance of the organisation in place. This assurance also includes regular review by our Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Audit Committee.

## **8. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money)**

8.1 The Strategic Council Plan has been assessed as deliverable within constraints of the MTFP via the divisional business planning process.

Ross Brown, Section 151 Officer and Corporate Director for Finance and Resources,  
13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023

## **9. Legal colleague comments**

9.1 In accordance with Article 8 of the Constitution, the Strategic Council Plan forms part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. The Council has statutory duties that it must fulfil by law. It cannot lawfully decide not to carry out those duties. Even where the Council is under a statutory duty to provide a service, there is often a wide discretion available to the Council about how to provide the service and the level of service provision. For other activities, the Council provides services in pursuance of a statutory power rather than a duty, and though not bound to carry out those activities, decisions about them must be taken in accordance with the decision-making requirements of administrative law.

9.2 Members have a duty to ensure that the Council acts lawfully. The Council must set and maintain a balanced budget. The objectives of the Strategic Council Plan must be delivered within the constraints of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Beth Brown, Head of Legal, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

## **10. Other relevant comments**

10.1 Relevant advice is sought in relation to the individual activities contained within the Strategic Council Plan.

**11. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)**

11.1 Not applicable.

**12. Social value considerations (If Applicable)**

12.1 Social value considerations are made alongside the individual activities contained within the Strategic Council Plan.

**13. Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)**

13.1 Not applicable.

**14. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

14.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because the individual activities contained within the Strategic Council Plan are subject to an EIA where applicable.

**15. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)**

15.1 Has the data protection impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



A DPIA is not required because the activity contained within the Strategic Council Plan does not include any data which is not already in the public domain, or is not suitable for publication.

**16. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)**

16.1 Has the carbon impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



A CIA is not required because the individual activities contained within the Strategic Council Plan are reviewed alongside the Council's Carbon Neutral 2028 Action Plan.

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

17.1 Nottingham City Council Plan 2023-27

**18. Published documents referred to in this report**

18.1 Nottingham City Council Together for Nottingham Plan

18.2 Report to and minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 September 2021

**Councillor David Mellen**  
**Leader of the Council**