



## **Report to Cabinet**

**Subject: Nottinghamshire County Council – study by Corporate Strategy and External Affairs Select Committee**

**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> December**

**Author: The Scrutiny Officer**

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

To update Cabinet on the progress of the Nottinghamshire County Council Corporate Strategy and External Affairs Select Committee.

### **2. Background**

In June 2005, the Council was invited to participate in a review which was to be carried out the County Council's Corporate Strategy and External Affairs Select Committee. The scope of this review was to study relationships between the County Council and Nottingham City Council, Borough, and District Councils – with a view to improving our relationships and ability to provide services.

This review was discussed at a Senior Management Team meeting in September when Heads of Service were asked to give examples of good and poor working arrangements with regard to Services, Buildings/Facilities and Partnership Working and Nottingham County Council. Examples given at this SMT meeting were agreed by the Scrutiny Chairs and were submitted to the County Council. The submission is included at Appendix 1. These submissions (alongside those received from other authorities) were reviewed at the last Select Committee meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> October.

Since that meeting there has been further correspondence from the County Council outlining how the Select Committee wish to go forward. A copy of this is attached as Appendix 2. This indicates that the Select Committee now wish to focus on particular examples of relationships and are inviting participation from both Scrutiny Members and Heads of Services from the various authorities to discuss their former comments.

### **3. Proposal**

Given the sensitive nature of some of these issues, it may be appropriate for Cabinet to consider whether the Council should be represented at these Committee Meetings by a Portfolio Holder(s) in addition to a member of SMT. At this stage it is not possible to determine which of the various items submitted to the Select Committee will be chosen, the Elected Members at the County Council have not indicated any specific issue for any of the Districts.

The next meetings are to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2006 at County Hall

### **4. Recommendations**

Members instructions requested concerning appropriate representation at these meetings.

**Nottinghamshire County Council -  
Study by Corporate Strategy and External Affairs Select Committee.**

<b>SERVICES</b>	<b>BUILDINGS OR FACILITIES</b>	<b>PARTNERSHIP WORKING</b>
<b><u>LEISURE SERVICES</u></b>		
<p><u>Bestwood Country Park-</u> this involves a joint management agreement reflecting a positive approach from officers and members to enhancing service provision. This can be seen as successful as there is a common purpose and a limited number of partners involved.</p> <p><u>The Sports and Physical Activities Strategy-</u> At an operational level, involvement with schools is good, but strategically the County have not been involved despite attending a few inaugural meetings. It is perceived as a weakness that they did not participate in the strategy whilst other partners did. In this instance, the services aspect works well whilst the partnership does not.</p> <p>The Scrutiny review of Youth Provision in the borough identified that this Council did not appear to be receiving appropriate resources eg Youth Workers to address needs. However, since the recommendations of the review were agreed by the LSP we are pleased to note that progress is being made.</p>	<p><u>Leisure Joint use-</u> The negotiations for the new contract were extremely difficult where it appeared that the County were passing on their budgetary problems to GBC. It has been difficult for GBC to maintain services, whilst appearing to bear the burden of county budget cuts.</p> <p><u>Community use</u> It appears that the various departments at the County set different agendas. For example Education Department appear not to give consideration to the wider community provision agenda, i.e. the specific design of a newly built primary school at Arnold precludes community use.</p>	<p><u>The Cultural Strategy for Nottinghamshire-</u> This works well at a strategic level as the County, City and all the districts have signed up to this. This reflects a positive way to deliver services across boundaries.</p> <p><u>The County Arts Partnership-</u> County and GBC both contribute to this financially. This is a positive venture, which works well as it involves one department at the County (no cross departmental issues).</p>

HOUSING

		<p><u>Extra Care / Supporting People-</u> After approximately 12 months of Officer negotiation, the County failed to support an Officer understanding regarding the funding of Extra Care provision. This left GBC employees in an uncertain position and GBC faced with directly funding the financial shortfall. One part of the Social Services department at the County had worked well with GBC, whilst another failed to provide financial support through Supporting People, which undermined the good relationship. It has been difficult to negotiate when two functions are working at counterpoint to each other.</p>
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FINANCE

<p><u>One-Stop-Shop-</u> This scheme works well as GBC works in tandem with the County to signpost the public onto relevant County departments i.e. welfare benefits.</p> <p>Welfare Rights surgeries are held every fortnight, which benefit GBC residents.</p>	<p><u>One-Stop-Shop-</u> This is a good example of sharing facilities- interview room and office space</p>	<p><u>One-Stop-Shop-</u> This is a good example of partnership working whereby both County and GBC staff can pick-up aspects of each other's work.</p> <p>GBC supports the County by monitoring their Performance Indicators. Currently GBC and the County are compiling some residents housing packs which will detail both the GBC and County services available. These will be compiled to suit the householder i.e. a family or elderly person. These multi-agency packs will also include P.C.T. health information.</p>
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		<p><u>Concessionary Fares-</u> The County put funding into this scheme and they manage it well. This has been a positive partnership and good for GBC residents as the travel passes that County subsidise extend beyond GBC boundaries.</p>
<p><b><u>PERSONNEL &amp; ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT</u></b></p>		
<p><u>Procurement</u> The ability to 'piggy back' onto County/City contracts e.g. PCs has benefited GBC by accessing lower prices e.g PCs. energy etc.</p>		<p>The collaborative approach to procurement across the County, City and Districts has been successful. The sharing of expertise and resources from the bigger Authorities has helped Districts to deliver the procurement agenda. Bridge to Work has been a successful collaboration with the County working to identify potential applicants, working with GBC to place them and to support their training. Much of this has been achieved because of the joint commitment to the policy.</p>
<p><b><u>DIRECT SERVICES</u></b></p>		
	<p><u>The Depot-</u> This is a good example of shared space, with efficient use of resources in a good locality for the county highway services.</p>	<p><u>Waste Disposal Contracts-</u> There appears to be lack of openness with the County about the Waste Disposal PFI contract for 2005. The financial implications for the district are not given sufficient attention by the County in their decision making. The considerably smaller scale of resources available to Districts is not appreciated by the County and therefore the financial impacts are more acute.</p>
<p><b><u>CABINET OFFICE</u></b></p>		
<p><u>Local Strategic Partnership</u></p>		<p><u>Local Strategic Partnership</u></p>

<p><u>&amp; Crime Reduction Partnership</u>- Whilst engagement on decision making with the County is good, it can be hard for GBC to deal with the various Departments competing agendas. Also, Strategic Leads do not always fully appreciate the resources commitment needed when a particular scheme or service has been decided upon.</p> <p><u>Regeneration</u>- GBC relies on the County to support this as they have resources and it seems to work well.</p>		<p><u>&amp; Crime Reduction Partnership</u> – At a strategic level partners attend either at Board or Executive level i.e. Social Services. At a local level certain departments at the County do not engage in partnerships as fully as possible and this can affect local service delivery e.g. youth services which seem overstretched.</p>
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Your Ref  
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27 October 2005



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Dear Mr Kanuritch

**Nottinghamshire County Council – study by Corporate Strategy and External Affairs Select Committee**

I am writing to update you on the progress of the Corporate Strategy and External Affairs Select Committee's study of relationships between the County Council, Borough and District Councils in Nottinghamshire, and the City Council, and to ask for your further help with this study. As you know the Select Committee is examining these relationships with the aim of improving them, and our ability to provide services.

Following my last letter to you dated 9 August 2005, the Select Committee met on 5 October 2005 where we discussed the report collating all initial submissions received from District and Borough Councils and the City Council on relationships with the County Council. The report covered services, facilities/ buildings, and partnership working, and lists where other Councils consider relationships with the County Council need to be improved and how this could be achieved, or where relationships are going well and why.

We sent out the agenda papers for this meeting to the Chief Executives of all the Councils, and several Members and officers from Borough and District Councils attended the 5 October Select Committee meeting, and took part in the discussion.

The full Select Committee report which includes all the submissions received can be found on Nottinghamshire County Council's website in PDF format in the Council Diary section for the Select Committee meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> October

After the discussion at the 5 October meeting the Select Committee chose the issues it now wishes to examine in greater detail. These issues are;

Relationships when setting up or working in partnerships

Relationships when carrying out consultations

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Services for Older People

We are following the original timetable sent to you – which I attach – and would specifically like to invite representatives from Nottingham City Council to attend our next meeting on 16 November 2005 to discuss the issues for the City Council around these two issues, and would then like to invite representatives from Borough and District Councils to attend the meetings on 4 January 2006 and 15 February 2006 to discuss issues for Borough and District Councils. However representatives from all Councils are also very welcome to attend all the Select Committee meetings throughout this study, and to make comments and contributions during the discussions at the meetings.

If you have any additional views regarding issues around relationships when setting up or working in partnership, or relationships when carrying out consultations, which you would like to submit in writing or by email prior to the next meeting, we would be very happy to receive them.

If you are able to attend the meetings please contact Lynn Senior, Head of Scrutiny, and she will make any necessary arrangements.

We look forward to receiving your further views and to working with you during this study.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Edward Llewellyn – Jones**  
**Chair – Corporate Strategy and External Affairs Select Committee**