

Report to Portfolio Holder for Diverse Communities and Life Chances

Subject: Gedling Social Mobility Commission

Date: 1 March 2023

Author: Head of Communities and Leisure

Wards Affected

Borough Wide

Purpose

To seek approval that a Social Mobility Commission for Gedling is established to oversee delivery of a social mobility action plan.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Recommendation

THAT:

- 1)** A Social Mobility Commission for Gedling is established to oversee delivery of a social mobility action plan.

1 Background

1.1 The Gedling Plan 2020-23 includes the following actions:

- Establish a Gedling Social Mobility Commission to improve the life chances and opportunities of young people
- Deliver and implement the Social Mobility Action Plan

1.2 As a first step towards this work programme, the Customer Insight Officer has undertaken some research using social mobility related data for the Borough. This considers social mobility definitions, national context, local

data and other relevant research. It provides some recommendations for future consideration. This research paper can be found at Appendix A.

- 1.3 Since this research has been completed, further data and insight continues to be gathered that may support the work of the Gedling Social Mobility Commission. This includes the following data for Gedling:

- Child Poverty data
- Free School Meals data
- Health inequalities mapping
- Census 2021 insight

- 1.3 It is proposed that our local Commission consists of a small panel of key stakeholders whose experience and role makes them best placed to inform and shape social mobility work locally. The Commission will agree its purpose, role and responsibilities to be documented in a terms of reference. The Commission should seek to include the representatives such as:

- Deputy Leader of the Council
- Portfolio Holder for Diverse Communities and Life Chances
- Portfolio Holder for Young People and Equalities
- Neighbourhood Policing Inspector Gedling
- Representative from Nottingham Trent University (as part of our COMPACT agreement)
- Early years representative from Nottinghamshire County Council
- Young People's Service representative from Nottinghamshire County Council
- Gedling Youth Council representative
- Health representative from either the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board or South Nottinghamshire Place Based Partnership
- Relevant Senior Officer representation from Gedling Borough Council

- Regeneration and Welfare representative from Gedling Borough Council
- Representative from the Voluntary and Community Sector
- Representative from Business

1.4 A first meeting of the Commission would consider and agree its terms of reference, consider the Social Mobility Research to date and the recommendations of that work and consider additional data and insight referred to in paragraph 1.3. The Commission would also consider whether there are gaps in this research that require further exploration. Any recommendation or actions agreed at the inaugural meeting would inform the Social Mobility Action Plan for Gedling. The Social Mobility Action Plan would be overseen by the Council on behalf of the Commission.

1.5 Devolution: A Brighter Future for the East Midlands

The Commission's terms of reference will need to consider options for the Commission's long-term role giving due consideration of the role that the new Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) might have in enabling social mobility. The devolution prospectus for the East Midlands cites:

- Devolution also means we could work with national government at a regional level on new initiatives to support young people and to tackle:
 - Homelessness
 - Domestic abuse
 - Community safety
 - Social mobility

A copy of the prospectus can be found at Appendix B. There is the opportunity for the Gedling Commission to take on an interim role presenting local need and advocating for the support required for families in Gedling, in preparation for when the new MCCA becomes established and has indicated its role regarding social mobility.

2 **Proposal**

2.1 It is proposed that:

A Social Mobility Commission for Gedling is established to oversee

delivery of a social mobility action plan.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 Not to establish a local Social Mobility Commission. However, this would not seize an opportunity to use the expertise available to review the current social mobility of our residents and consider how all our communities might be enabled to reach their full potential.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications of this decision. The administration of, and research for, the Commission will be undertaken using existing staffing resource within the Council. The Commission is a meeting of partners whose role is to advocate for the needs of our communities and to influence the allocation of existing and future mainstream resources of partners. Should this existing resource not be considered sufficient to support for example additional research, a revenue development bid would be required as part of the Council's budget planning process.
- 4.2 Delivery of the developed social mobility action plan would utilise the existing resources of the Council and its key partners at a local, Countywide and sub-regional level. Any additional resources required to enable delivery would require external funding to be sought, and applied for, and any match funding from the Council would be subject to a revenue development bid.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications associated with the establishment of a Social Mobility Commission, which is not a legal body.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 Addressing inequality in the community will be at the centre of the Commission's work. The Commission will assess equalities based demographic data as part of its considerations and make appropriate recommendations based on this for the Council and its partners to consider.

7 Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 While there are no direct carbon reduction/sustainability implications arising from this report, the Commission may reflect on the carbon neutral agenda and consider factors such as how sustainable travel options or poor energy efficient homes could affect the social mobility of our

residents.

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix A: Social Mobility Research Analysis

Appendix B: Devolution: A Brighter Future for the East Midlands

9 Background Papers

None identified.

10 Reasons for Recommendations

10.1 The Gedling Plan 2020-23 includes the following actions:

- Establish a Gedling Social Mobility Commission to improve the life chances and opportunities of young people
- Deliver and implement the Social Mobility Action Plan

10.2 Although the overall social mobility index for the borough does not identify Gedling as a 'cold spot' area or an area that indicates very low chances to fulfil one's potential, there are two sub-indices that are in the 'cold spot' area: 'Youth' and 'Early Age' that require further exploration (UK Social Mobility Commission Index, 2017).

10.3 Data shows the Borough has health inequalities between the more deprived and more affluent areas. Understanding community need and assessing its impact on social mobility will contribute to addressing health inequalities and improving the life chances of young people.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer