



meeting

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

date

**18<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

agenda item number

**REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE AND REGENERATION**

**REPORT FOR THE PERIOD TO JANUARY 2007**

1. The following are summaries of work relating to my portfolio since my last report to Council.

**Regeneration**

**Adult and Community Learning Service**

2. The report following the inspection of the Adult and Community Learning Service (ACLS) by the Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI) in early October was published on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November.
3. The ALI report that the strengths of the Service include:
  - “good change management”
  - “good targeting of hard-to-reach learners”
  - “significant quality improvement”
4. Overall the Service was judged as ‘Grade 2 Good’ a significant improvement from the previous inspection in April 2005.

<b>Leadership &amp; management</b>	
Contributory grades	2
Equality of opportunity	2
Quality improvement	2

5. Terry Laws – Partnership Director, Learning and Skills Council Nottinghamshire:

“We would like to congratulate Nottinghamshire County Council Adult and Community Learning Service on the results of the Adult Learning Inspectorate re-inspection. This is an excellent achievement, which reflects the commitment of the Service’s staff and learning providers to delivering high quality learning to adults across Nottinghamshire. This work makes a real difference to some of our most deprived communities and opens up real

opportunities for adults to benefit from learning customised to their individual needs.”

6. The full report can be accessed by visiting <http://www.ali.gov.uk/index.htm> then clicking on the heading Inspection Reports.

### **Grants - August 2006 to July 2007**

7. ACLS works with a very wide range of partners to deliver learning at the heart of local communities including Voluntary and Community Groups, Colleges, Schools, Sure Starts and the Workers Education Association.
8. Since August 2006, the service has dealt with 126 Grant Applications from 44 organisations. Approximately 28% of the budget for the service is allocated to Grants. Of the 44 organisations:
  - 6 are Sure Start Groups
  - 9 are from statutory bodies e.g. District Councils
  - 20 are Voluntary and Community Groups
  - 9 ‘other’ organisations that the service has agreed to fund to deliver specialist courses e.g. paediatric first aid, throughout the County.

### **Open College Network (OCN) success**

9. Learners who had taken part in ‘PEEP’ and ‘SHARE’ courses got together in November to celebrate their achievements.
10. The 18 learners who attended courses funded by ACLS and run by Surestart West Mansfield, Lakeview Primary School and Surestart Gedling attended events to mark their success in gaining Open College Network awards.

### **Economic Regeneration**

#### **Social Enterprise**

11. I would first draw members’ attention to the Government’s publication of its social enterprise action plan. This follows publication of its Strategy in 2002 and represents a re-confirmation of its vision for the service. While we have yet to digest its contents fully, I am pleased to see how closely the action plan mirrors the Economic Regeneration perspective for supporting social enterprise development in the County through the promotion of the benefits of social enterprise; providing timely technical advice and information; supporting access to finance and enabling links to potential markets – including those within the public sector.
12. I was also pleased to meet a number of Nottinghamshire social enterprises first hand on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. I visited Purple Zebra, which delivers IT solutions; the Park Road Resource Centre in Mansfield Woodhouse; the Unique Group in Newark; North Nottinghamshire Leisure and Circle Arts (based at the Regal) both based in Worksop and finally the Pleasley

Community Landmark building. All of these projects have benefited from advice and support from my portfolio and all meet the needs of local communities, being businesses with primarily social objectives.

13. Finally, I can confirm further support since last reporting to a range of social enterprises in Nottinghamshire, in particular to projects within the Community Resource Centre sector. Independent, community-run and managed facilities play a key role in bringing isolated and predominantly disadvantaged communities together, providing facilities which allow local access to a range of important services. In addition to providing access to jobs, training and learning opportunities, many offer direct services through contract and / or grant arrangements or provide facilities to be let commercially for service delivery by others. In addition to those mentioned above, other resource centres recently benefiting from development finance from my portfolio include the Ashfield Women's Centre; Carlton-in-Lindrick Resource Centre and the Langold Resource Centre.

### **Strategic Sub-Regional Partnerships (SSP's)**

14. As Chair of the Alliance SSP's Economic Infrastructure Group, I have recently overseen the launch of a commissioning call for business accommodation and tourism projects which will see an investment of £4.2m and £1m respectively in projects that will advance the delivery of sub-regional strategy for the area.

### **Sherwood: The Living Legend**

15. Work on the project continues apace and I am pleased to confirm that the Design Competition, supervised by the Royal Institute of British Architects is now nearing completion. Six designs for the new visitor campus have been submitted and a decision will be made in January as to the preferred design and contractor. The competing designs have received positive coverage in the local and regional media. Over the Christmas period, members of the public were invited to comment on the designs at exhibitions located at Sherwood Forest and Rufford Country Parks and at the Ice Stadium in Nottingham. This will complement the consultation being undertaken via the County Council's own web-site. The outcome of the consultation will inform the deliberations of the Design Competition Panel when they meet to select the successful design and contractor in January.

## **Culture**

### **Nottinghamshire Archives**

#### **Alan Ball Local History award**

16. Libraries, Archives and Information has been awarded the 2006 Alan Ball award for 'Viewing the Lifeless Body, A Coroner and his inquests held in Nottinghamshire Public Houses during the Nineteenth Century, 1828-1866' by Bernard Heathcote.

17. The object of the award, administered by the Library Services Trust, is to encourage local authorities to produce local history publications of a high standard. I was very pleased to be present when the award was presented by Mr Michael Saich, the Chairman of the Libraries Services Trust, to the Chairman of the County Council on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2007 in the Civic Suite, County Hall.
18. The book was commended as “scrupulously researched and well-produced but not for the faint-hearted”. It is a study of the career of Coroner Christopher Swann, 1828-1866 and his inquests. During the nineteenth century most inquests were held in public houses and the book features inquests into drownings, overdoses, suffocation, road, railway and ballooning accidents, poisoning, accidents in mines and factories, murder and many more.

### The National Archives

19. The National Archives has recently piloted a self-assessment of local authority archive services in England and Wales. 113 of the 126 services participated and completed a 109 question survey with sections on governance; documentation of collections; customer responsiveness; searchroom and other public services; buildings, security and environment; and preservation and conservation. Nottinghamshire Archives achieved an overall score of 71.54%, which was the equal highest in the East Midlands and compared to a national top score of 80%. Overall Nottinghamshire Archives were judged to be a three star service, which was the highest possible rating, given to the top 10% of archive services.
20. The National Archives (TNA) have also recently carried out an inspection of Nottinghamshire Archives and have replaced provisional approval to hold Public Records with full TNA approval subject to the condition of a commitment that adequate expansion space for archival storage is provided.
21. Combined with the recent excellent ratings in this year’s Survey of Visitors to British Archives this is all good news for the Archives service.

### **Libraries**

#### Christmas at Balmoral

22. 2006 marked a very successful year for Balmoral Library. Six extra children’s summer activities, special craft making and storytelling sessions for parents and children run by Joy Pitt, monthly toddler times and regular book exchanges and stories with the local school have all seen Balmoral firmly established at the heart of the community. This year has also seen the inauguration of a very successful reading group based at Balmoral Library.
23. To end the year Balmoral hosted a Children’s Christmas Party on 22<sup>nd</sup> December for approximately 50 children, which was made possible by a kind donation from Councillor Sybil Fielding. The party included craft making

activities such as card and badge making, table decorations and a professional face painter did some body art.

24. There was also a puppet show and songs performed by volunteer library staff and to finish off a visit from Santa himself!

## **Tourism & Country Parks**

### Christmas catering at Rufford and Sherwood Forest

25. The Savile Restaurant at Rufford Country Park served its popular Christmas lunches from 27<sup>th</sup> November until Christmas Eve. As a sales incentive, customers who booked to have the full three course meal any day excluding Sunday between 27<sup>th</sup> November and 9<sup>th</sup> December received a £5 gift voucher to spend in the Lakeside Garden Shop.
26. By mid-December, advance bookings for meals in the Savile were 5% up on 2005. 891 people were due to receive gift vouchers compared with 762 in 2005, an increase of 17%.
27. In addition, evening dinners were served on three Fridays, one Wednesday and one Saturday during December, and festive carveries were served at lunchtime on Boxing Day and New Year's Day. All of these were fully booked by mid-December.
28. Following the success of last year's festive Christmas dinners at Sherwood's Forest Table restaurant, the number was increased from four last year to eight this year. In addition to a three course meal, the evening's included a Ceilidh band and dancing. All eight events were fully booked and raised over £14,300.

### Aurora

29. For the second year running, rangers at Rufford staged a colourful Christmas lighting event called 'Aurora' over the first three weekends in December. This offered visitors a rare chance to take an evening stroll round an illuminated trail through the park's formal gardens at the rear of the Abbey. These had been decorated with a variety of coloured lights highlighting some of the many trees, shrubs and sculptures. Tickets cost £1 per person.
30. The trail was available between 5.00 and 7.00pm each evening and attracted over 2,000 visitors over the six evenings – more than double the number at the 2005 event.

### Bestwood Winding Engine House project

31. Progress on Bestwood's Stage 2 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) submission is now well advanced. The contracted architects have produced a restoration scheme for the Winding Engine House and plans for the conversion of the Dynamo House (the former electrical sub-station), including a scheme for sustainable energy regeneration. The Greater Nottingham Partnership has

also expressed interest in supporting the scheme financially. If the stage two bid to HLF is successful, the proposed opening date for the development is Autumn 2009.

### Rufford ERDF Grant Progress

32. Work on the restoration of the Western Gates has now been put out to tender. Plans and tenders are also being finalised for the new Saxon Play Village and Children's Garden, and artists have been commissioned to produce sculptures for these two areas. Work is due to start on site at Rufford in Spring 2007.

## **Sports**

### Disability Unit Awards Evening

33. On 7<sup>th</sup> December the Disability Unit's annual awards dinner was held at Portland College (Mansfield). The evening was designed to celebrate achievements of continued projects such as Sport Direct and Inside Out, new projects that are beginning and the new staff who have come into the unit. The success of individual athletes was also recognized as was the support the unit has provided for large countywide events. There was also recognition for our winter Paralympians who competed in the Sledge Hockey competition.

34. Awards were presented in the following categories:

<i>Junior Services to Sport</i>	Nathan Thompson Athletics (Bulwell – City)
<i>Services to Sport</i>	Phil Peat Athletics/Cricket (Mansfield)
<i>Most Improved Sportsperson</i>	Rachel Benhamou Boccia (Broxtowe)
<i>Award of Excellence</i>	James Rawson Table Tennis (Broxtowe)
<i>Sportsperson of the Year</i>	Sam Hynd Swimming (Ashfield)
<i>Melissa Smart Award</i>	Lisa Cole Athletics (Mansfield)
<i>Sports Disability Unit Personality of the Year</i>	Martin Smith Cricket/Athletics (Mansfield)

### Athletics Awards Evening

35. On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December Nottinghamshire Athletics held their second annual awards evening at the Festival Hall - Kirkby-in-Ashfield with approximately 100 guests in attendance.
36. England Athletics Regional Manager for the East Midlands, Alison Wyeth presented the awards. More than 40 nominations were received with 8 awards presented for individuals and clubs along with 4 county badges for officials.

37. Nikki Mottishaw (Notts AC) and Hannah Mitchell (Sutton in Ashfield AC) were presented with National awards in the categories of services to coaching development and young volunteer of the year and Notts AC delivered a short presentation on the World Children's Games in which they competed in earlier this year.

### Winners

- *Club Officer of the Year* – John Kitchen (Newark AC) - Newark
- *Performance Coach of the Year* – Paul Gair (Mansfield Harriers) - Mansfield
- *Development Coach of the Year* – Stuart College (Newark AC) – Newark
- *Club Volunteer of the Year* – Joyce Stevens (Sutton Harriers) – Ashfield & Brian Turner (Mansfield Harriers) - Mansfield
- *Junior Club of the Year* – Sutton Harriers - Ashfield
- *Track & Field Club / Section of the Year* - Mansfield Harriers Senior Men's Team - Mansfield
- *Official of the Year* – Gareth Bagguley (Newark AC) – Newark
- *Off Track Club / Section of the Year* - Mansfield Harriers U13 Girls ECCA (English Cross Country Association) Cross Country Team – Mansfield

### Youth Games to be held in Ashfield – Venue Launch

38. Following a vote at the Nottinghamshire Youth Games Executive Committee, it was agreed that the next Youth Games event will be held in the district of Ashfield with Ashfield School serving as the main venue. A launch event was held for the new venue on 13<sup>th</sup> December which was attended by the Ashfield Sports Development team and by local children who took part in last year's Games, helping Ashfield take the top district medal tally.
39. The dates for the Youth Games are 4<sup>th</sup> July when the Disability event will run at Nottingham Trent University and 7<sup>th</sup> July - Ashfield School.

### Junior Sports Review of the Year

40. The Sports Review is held annually to celebrate the successes of those involved in sport in Nottinghamshire. The criteria for these achievements are between the dates of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005 and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2006. This could be playing either in a team or as an individual or being involved as a coach or volunteer.
41. Due to the volume of nominations (over 250 in another fantastic year of achievements in Nottinghamshire) there are 2 events – Junior and Senior. The first of these ran on 15<sup>th</sup> January. The junior event recognised our stars of the future and covered the following categories:
- Junior Team of the Year
  - Junior Sportsperson of the Year
  - Junior Volunteer of the Year

- Junior Disabled Sportsperson of the Year
42. The awards were compered by local sports presenter and journalist Andrew James. He was joined by local sports stars and representatives from the County Council who were happy to meet and offer advice to our potential future champions.

Play Sport CD ROM is launched (trademarked)

43. In a bid to spread the influence of the highly successful Play Sport project both inside and beyond Nottinghamshire, we have created a CD Rom which covers the main points of fundamentals and multi-skills and offers exercises and advice to teachers and sports coaches.
44. Working with children from Cotgrave, Orston and Ashlea Primary Schools (Rushcliffe), our six multi-skills coaches demonstrate drills and techniques that will help children develop basic skills for sport. There are also examples of activities that can be adapted for children with disabilities.
45. A complimentary copy of the resource will be distributed to all those who attended the recent Beacon Open Day (7<sup>th</sup> November). It is hoped this will increase interest in this area of work and will help us to meet some of our commitments to sharing knowledge that being a Beacon Council entails.
46. Partnership with our procurement team has enabled us to secure a deal with County Supplies to stock the sports equipment demonstrated on the CD Rom. The service will be advertised on the sleeve of the resource and a promotional pamphlet will be included with every copy.
47. As of 8<sup>th</sup> December, the Play Sport name and logo have been approved for trademark in a bid to make the project recognisable as a brand.

**Arts**

48. Winter has been a busy period for the Arts Community Development Team with much of the ground work undertaken with groups beginning to pay dividends. During this time 2 external funding bids have been successful.
49. First, *Warsop Muso's project*, were awarded £55,000 from Neighbourhood Renewal Fund to engage with Neighbourhood Management Teams across the Mansfield District, rolling out a successful youth music and band development programme previously piloted in Warsop. The arts staff have worked developing the bid and will provide wider support and contacts for the group.
50. Secondly, the *Mental Health arts initiative* Adult Community Learning Service bid for £12,773, that will bring together services over 3 districts, coordinated by Boundary Resource Centre, Worksop, involving Rokerfield in Sutton in Ashfield and Beeston in Broxtowe, was also successful. The funding will provide arts programmes in day centre settings and Rufford and Sherwood Country Parks. The project has been developed to address the European

Regional Development Fund (ERDF) cultural tourist targets and also engages a new audience to activities at both the Country Parks.

51. With these successful bids, the arts team have now contributed to raising over £120,000 of external funding for arts activities across North Nottinghamshire. The team are also developing bids worth a further £50,000 with groups in Ladybrook and Mansfield Woodhouse and supporting the Sandy Lane Forum and the Circle in Worksop and with the Clipstone Arts Group on a 3 year organisation development and funding plan.
52. At the end of November the Harley Arts Market, one of the biggest arts service event, attracted record audiences. Over a packed weekend over 5,000 people visited the market showcasing the work of over 50 regional artists.

**Councillor Steve Carroll**  
**Cabinet Member for Culture and Regeneration**