



February 2017

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including

What's On!

NottinghamJobs

Working for you

“Have Your Say...”

- Council budget
- Better taxis
- Private rented housing
- Sustainable city



Nottingham
City Council



Welcome to the latest issue of the Arrow, the City Council's magazine for residents.

“In this edition of the Arrow you'll find news about our budget consultation. We're asking for your views on how to meet the gap caused by more than £82 million of government cuts to our funding over the past four years.

The rising cost of Adult Social Care is an area of particular concern here in Nottingham as it is in many other parts of the country. We need to find an extra £10 million just to meet this growing demand meaning difficult decisions must be made about other services we provide.

The Government, having failed to fund social care adequately out of national taxation, expects us to add 3% to your Council tax bills in April which would be on top of the 1.99% the council has put forward to cover, for example, the costs of inflation.

This is unfair, as it means local people pay more whilst the Government pays less and doesn't raise nearly enough money to cover the rising costs of care. If the government doesn't act fast, the gap will get bigger every year, and the problem in social care will get worse in cities like Nottingham.

I'd encourage you to get involved in our budget consultation so that we can get the message across to government that they must adequately fund social care for those who rely on it.”

Councillor Jon Collins
Nottingham City Council Leader



Councillor Jon Collins is the Leader of Nottingham City Council. He can be contacted by writing to Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham NG2 3NG; by telephone on 876 4256 or email jon.collins@nottinghamcity.gov.uk



The Chief Executive of Nottingham City Council is Ian Curryer. He can be contacted by writing to Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham NG2 3NG; by telephone on 876 3302 or email chief.executive@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

To comment, compliment or complain:

“Have Your Say...”



Go online:
www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/hys



Textphone or minicom:
18001, then 0115 915 5555



Phone us on: 0115 915 5555



Visit us:
at any Council reception point or office



Write to: Have Your Say,
Nottingham City Council, Loxley House,
Station Street, Nottingham NG2 3NG



Arrowonline

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www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/stayconnected where you can also subscribe to more e-alerts.



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New Super Kitchens set for social eating city

Plans are in place to create 10 new Super Kitchens – affordable social eating experiences using food that may otherwise have been wasted – which will make Nottingham the UK's first social eating city.



Photo courtesy of the Nottingham Post



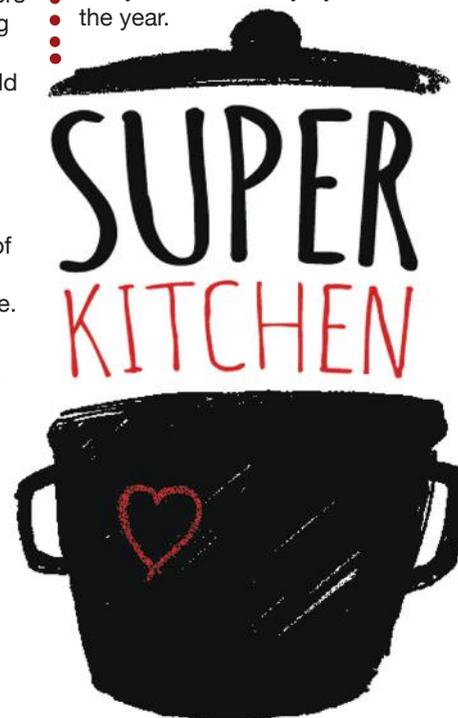
The City Council is working with the Super Kitchen project to create community eating spaces and tackle food poverty using surplus supermarket produce.

Super Kitchen was established in 2014 in Sneinton and quickly grew from one social eating space to a network of 40 members by 2016. They aim to bring communities together to enjoy good food that would otherwise be wasted.

There are currently 20 operating in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and they focus on the values of community, social eating and combating food waste.

Their members currently serve around 1,800 meals across Nottingham city each month, saving over 66 tonnes of good food from going to landfill each year. Super Kitchens are open to everybody to come and socialise at mealtimes over an affordable dinner.

- Many people have never eaten a meal with a local community group or club, or even with a neighbour but our Year of Social Eating campaign will hopefully change this by make sure that every day of the week there will be a Super Kitchen meal available somewhere in the city.
- The 10 proposed new Super Kitchens will put a Super Kitchen in every area of the city by the end of the year.



superkitchen.org

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£13.9m National Lottery success for Castle!

The Nottingham Castle Transformation Project's bid for a £13.9m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been successful.

The scheme will cost £29.4m in total and will see the creation of new galleries dedicated to Robin Hood, restoration to the gatehouse and Palace galleries, remodelling the landscape and grounds, including an adventure play area, a new visitor centre and improvements to the caves and Brewhouse Yard Cottages experiences.

It is predicted that when complete in 2020, the improved Castle will attract 400,000 visitors and achieve £90m additional spend in the local economy over ten years. 230 jobs will be created during construction and then 395 local jobs sustained when the centre is open.

New central library plans get go ahead

The City Council is fully committed to investing in new Central Library facilities to create a 21st century facility the city deserves.

Some councils facing budget cuts have carried out large reductions in library provision to make savings – but in recent years Nottingham City Council has invested in modern neighbourhood libraries. Central Library will be no exception.

The current library is not fit for purpose. The needs of library users are changing but this site is tired and not very adaptable to those changing needs. Modern central libraries should be a destination which attracts large numbers of people not only to borrow free books, but to access a wide range of services including learning, business intelligence, job clubs, literacy development and access to PCs and wi-fi, research archives, get help using new technology and so much more.

The council has approved in principal the disposal of the Angel Row library site to developers Henry Boot Developments Ltd which would provide funding for the council to reinvest in a new and updated library facility. It also paves the way for an increase in Grade A office space to be created, meeting the demand for top quality office space in the city centre.



What's On! this spring...

The Big Wheel in Old Market Square On now until 12 March

Take a 12 minute ride on the wheel, with breath-taking 360 degree views
60 metres above Nottingham. £6 adults, £5 concessions, £4 child, £18 family.
nottinghamcity.gov.uk/wheel



Light Night! Friday 10 February **FREE**

Discover something new on a Friday night
as Light Night returns to brighten up your
winter! It's the tenth one held in Nottingham,
and the wheel of Nottingham is back, and
Nottingham Castle is open FREE from 4pm.
See the full programme at
www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/lightnight



Your
**FREE 2017
Nottingham
events**
calendar is
included with
this Arrow

More great spring **What's On!** events over the page...



What's On! this spring...



Half-Term Activities 13 – 17 February

See what's on to entertain the kids around the city, with loads of FREE and great value events for families.

nottinghamcity.gov.uk/halfterm

St Patrick's Day Celebration Friday 17 March **FREE** in Old Market Square

Don't miss the annual parade and celebration of Ireland's culture and patron saint.

nottinghamcity.gov.uk/stpatricksdays

Easter Holiday Activities 31 March – 17 April

See what's on during the school holidays for families, plus Easter fairs and markets.

nottinghamcity.gov.uk/easter

Science in the Park Saturday 18 March **FREE** at Wollaton Park

FREE interactive and fun packed festival packed with demonstrations and activities.

wollatonhall.org.uk

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Nottingham in Fashion **FREE** Catwalk Shows 24 & 25 March at the Council House, Old Market Square

Two days of fashion, makeovers and style tips to get you ready for spring/summer.

itsinnottingham.com/fashion



St George's Day Celebration Sunday 23 April **FREE** in Old Market Square

Celebrate England's patron saint and the national day for England at this free celebration. Watch the parade by the Royal Society of St George, plus a display of traditional dancing and live music.

nottinghamcity.gov.uk/stgeorgesday

Big Day Out **FREE** Sunday 30 April

Get FREE entry at Nottingham Castle and Newstead Abbey (parking charges still apply). Check the websites to see what other activities are on.

nottmcastle.org.uk
newsteadabbey.org.uk

1940s Knees Up Monday 1 May at Nottingham Castle & Brewhouse Yard

Step back in time for a great vintage 1940s themed day out, with dancing, games, live music and history brought to life.

£7 adults, £5 concessions, children under 16 FREE. nottinghamcastle.org.uk

Great Food and Drink Festival 27 – 29 May at Nottingham Castle

A great foodie bank holiday weekend out at Nottingham Castle, with three days of fantastic demonstration, stalls, live music, and entertainment and fun for kids.

£8 advance, £10 on door. Under 10s FREE.

greatfoodanddrinkfestivals.co.uk/nottingham-castle



What's On! in Parks

All these events are **FREE** and run on a 'just turn up' basis!



Nest Box Making

Celebrate National Nest Box Week by learning how to make your own – we'll then put it up for birds to use in the park. £5 charge if you want to take your box away.

King Edward Park
13 February at 1pm

Meet near play area.

Strelley Recreation Ground
14 February at 1pm

Meet near the tennis court.

Vernon Park
15 February at 1pm

Meet at the pavilion.

Highfields Park
16 February at 1pm

Meet at the boathouse.

Broxtowe Country Park
17 February at 1pm

Meet by Phoenix adventure playground.

Mud Creations

Have a go at using nature's original building material to build amazing sculptures and structures.

Broxtowe Country Park
3 April, 12 – 2pm

Meet at Phoenix adventure playground.

Nottingham Arboretum
6 April at 1pm

Meet at the bandstand.

Den Building

Build a shelter in the woods using natural materials.

Broxtowe Country Park
5 April at 12 – 2pm

Meet at Phoenix adventure playground

Easter Fun

Easter Egg Hunt
at Broxtowe Country Park
7 April, 12 – 2pm

Meet at Phoenix adventure playground to hunt for Easter eggs and learn about spring animals.

Bunny Hunt at Forest Recreation Ground
13 April at 11am

Meet at the pavilion. See if you can find real bunnies and their friends.

Scavenger Hunt

Use your detective skills to find your way around the park, scavenging items as you go.

Woodthorpe Grange Park
11 April at 1pm

Meet near the playground.

Wild Food Walks

Meet your friendly local Park Ranger for some urban food foraging! You'll find out what can be found growing in your local park that's good enough to eat.

Martin's Pond
13 May at 1pm

Meet at Russell Drive entrance

Bulwell Hall Park
14 May at 1pm

Meet at the main car park.

Could you make a difference?

Drop in to a conservation session and you could spend a couple of hours in the fresh air, helping to take care of your local green space. You'll meet new people too!

Sessions run at Highfields Park. Next session is on 25 February from 11am – 1pm. Booking helpful, but not essential, on 0115 846 7777.

Wildlife in the City also run sessions around the city, including in Bulwell, Basford and Colwick, where you can volunteer to help with important conservation work.

For details go to wildlifeinthecity.org/events



Visit www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/whatson or call **0115 915 2733** for a full list of events, including heritage and wild food walks, plus the chance to learn about types of trees and spring flowers and see what's lurking in your local pond!

What's On! in Libraries

Be Online Week 20 – 28 February

FREE sessions in your local library will help you to get online and learn how to use the internet in a friendly group. Bring your own iPad if you have one.

How to use Twitter Bilborough Library

20 February 10.30am – 12.30pm

Basic Photography with an iPad

Aspley Library

20 February 2pm – 4pm

Wollaton Library

22 February 10.30am – 12.30pm

Bilborough Library

23 February 10.30am – 12.30pm

Nottingham Central Library

24 February 10.30am – 12.30pm

Introduction to online shopping on an iPad

Bilborough Library

21 February 10.30am – 12.30pm

Nottingham Central Library

21 February 2 – 4pm

Introduction to iPads

Bulwell Riverside Library

23 February 2 – 4pm

Nottingham Central Library

25 February 1 – 3pm

Low Vision Drop in

Hyson Green Library

28 February 10am – 12pm

Learn how to use izoom and assistive software on library computers to get online, even with vision problems.

Festival of Science and Curiosity

11 – 15 February
in all city libraries

Exciting and creative science for the whole family to enjoy in libraries across the city. Visit www.stemcity.co.uk to see what's on.

Angel Row History Forum Talks – Hearing Deaf Voices

14 February 10am – 12pm

FREE talk by Nicola Ramsdale from Nottinghamshire Deaf Society, celebrating deaf culture and heritage.

Nottingham Soldier

9 May 10am – 12pm

FREE talk by Chris Weir on the 1916 – 18 letters of Nottingham soldier Harold Priestly.

FREE Safer Internet Day at Nottingham Central Library

7 February 2pm – 4pm

Have internet safety questions? Drop in any time during the session for help and advice.

Be the first to know what's coming up in Nottingham!

You can pick up the latest

What's On!

guide from Nottingham Tourism Centre on Smithy Row, heritage sites including Nottingham Castle, Wollaton Hall and Newstead Abbey, your local library, and other venues around the city including cafes and pubs. Or download an electronic copy of the what's on at nottinghamcity.gov.uk/events

You can also get FREE weekly What's On! emails

Join over 30,000 other people who get our weekly emails bringing you the best events coming up in Nottingham. To sign up, just visit nottinghamcity.gov.uk/stayconnected and try it out – if you don't like it, you can unsubscribe at any time.

Find What's On! in Nottingham on Twitter and Facebook

Follow us @nottm_events on twitter and find us by searching 'What's On Nottingham' on Facebook to get the latest updates.

 @nottm_events

 What's On Nottingham

Or visit our NEW What's On! website
nottinghamcity.gov.uk/whatson

8 nottinghamcity.gov.uk/libraries

Helping Nottingham people into jobs

Nottingham City Council is working hard to get local people into jobs.

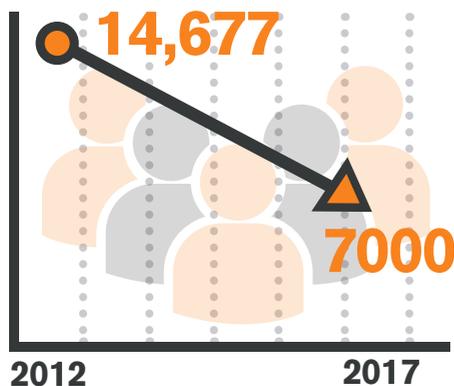
In 2016, Nottingham Jobs has helped:

5,000
people into work

915
people into apprenticeships

550
employers create new vacancies

The unemployment rate in Nottingham has been reduced by over half.



Latest figures show that Nottingham has the biggest fall in unemployment rate of all core cities, including Manchester, Birmingham and Liverpool, over the past year



Meet Ryan, 24, from Bulwell.
Working full time at R&J Projects

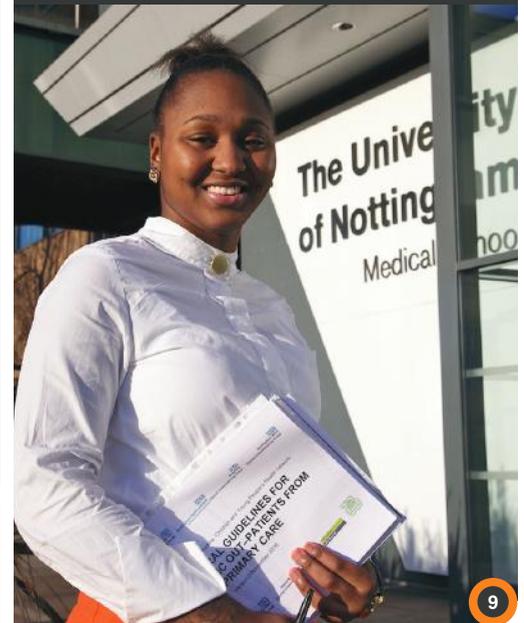
I was unemployed, with a new baby to provide for.

My employment advisor helped me get an interview for a construction role, and I had an interview the next day. The people I met at Nottingham Jobs were very friendly and helpful and gave me all the support I needed.

Meet Kashlie, 21, from St Ann's
Outpatient Room Booking Co-ordinator at Queen's Medical Centre

I didn't know what I wanted to do when I left school, but I got onto an traineeship at Nottingham City Council studying Business Administration and got useful experience working in an office while I was earning money.

After that I applied for my current role at Queen's Medical Centre where I monitor referrals for them to be vetted by doctors, book clinic rooms for the doctors and other general administrative duties.





**Nottingham
City Council**
helped Jade
get an
apprenticeship
at Littlefish
IT Services



We can help you too

NottinghamJobs can help get you or someone
you know into a job or apprenticeship in Nottingham.

Call 0115 876 4508 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)
Text JOB and your name to 80818*

*Standard network charge applies



Ambitious for you



Good housing

- Hundreds of sustainable and affordable new council homes are being built across the city
- A proposed new licencing scheme for private rented houses will ensure they are good quality

Families

- 81% of Nottingham schools are good or outstanding, according to Ofsted – and we're working hard to improve the rest
- 1400 school places were created in 2016, thanks to a £41million investment



Transport

- Award winning buses and trams – we've got the best public transport in the UK
- New safe cycle routes help reduce pollution and congestion
- Nottingham has the UK's only electric park and ride, and the largest fleet of electric buses in the country

Our City

- Our plans for the Broadmarsh area will create a new public space, retail and leisure space, and a great welcome for visitors
- Work starts this year to transform Nottingham Castle into a world-class heritage visitor destination



Your Local Area

- We're improving your neighbourhoods, investing in new modern facilities like Hyson Green Library



Nottingham Jobs Fair

Friday 3 March, 9.30am – 2.30pm
at Bulwell Riverside Centre

Just drop in to connect with employers and find opportunities.

NottinghamJobs Working for you...

Nottingham Jobs is a unique partnership between the City Council, the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and Futures Advice, Skills and Employment. It's a free service that supports Nottingham residents into work or training and employers with their recruitment needs.

The most valuable resource for any small business is the people who work there. But sometimes, finding new talent puts a huge amount of pressure on business resources.

The Nottingham Jobs team have helped thousands of employers to find new talent and access funding to help them recruit and grow their local workforce and their businesses. NottinghamJobs is now also able to offer local employers up to £7,500 to help create new traineeship placements, apprenticeships and jobs for hundreds of local young people.

Councillor Sam Webster, Portfolio Holder for Education, Employment and Skills, said: "The Nottingham Jobs Fund Plus and Nottingham Apprenticeship Grant schemes delivered by the Council's NottinghamJobs service provides employers with a real incentive to take on young people who will help to grow their business.

"Nottingham is an ambitious city. The Council is committed to ensuring that residents have access to the services they need to help them find work and train to achieve their full potential. NottinghamJobs is a great example of this ambition which has given young people the opportunities they need to flourish and is part of the work we continue to do to reduce unemployment in the city. Our clear aim is for every 18-24 year old in Nottingham to have access to a job or training place."

To find out more about how NottinghamJobs is working with local employers to support local young people find work call 0115 876 4508 or visit nottinghamjobs.com

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"It's working for me"

Looking to recruit talented local people and apprentices?

NottinghamJobs can help you

Nottingham Jobs Fund Plus*

Nottingham Apprenticeship Grant*

Call 0115 876 4508

www.nottinghamjobs.com

 My Nottingham Jobs  @nottmjobs
#nottinghamworks #nottinghamjobs

*Eligibility criteria apply.

Supporting young people into jobs and training



This activity is part-financed by Nottingham City Council and the European Union through the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI).



NottinghamJobs

Futures
Advice, skills & employment



Local people working for the City Council

Nottingham City Council offers a wider range of jobs than you might think! We've got roles in finance, legal, marketing, IT, planning, data analysis, trades and lots more.

Plus, we regularly recruit for jobs including swimming teachers, environmental protection officers, community protection officers and LGV drivers. Nottingham City Council is a great place to work; we pay our employees fairly and offer flexible working and up to 34 days annual leave.



We're recruiting 50 apprentices to work at Nottingham City Council

We are recruiting to apprenticeships across the Council, in areas including libraries, highways and community protection.

The scheme is even open to people with no qualifications and ex-offenders. Applications are now open until 17 February. We'll then hold assessment days on 7 and 8 March and apprentices will start work by the end of April. 82% of our apprentices go on to get a permanent job at Nottingham City Council.

We want to hear from you!
To find out more and apply, visit nottinghamjobs.com



Meet Alvin

"I was born and bred in St Ann's, and I came to work for the Council in 1995 as an apprentice.

I'm now Domestic Waste Manager, making sure Nottingham stays the cleanest city in the UK!

I love working for Nottingham City Council. There is a lot of support and training, plus a great work-life balance and nice colleagues. It's a fantastic place to work with lots of opportunities throughout your career."

Meet Candida

"I went to school in the city and joined the council in 1986 as an apprentice in planning.

I've had many different jobs since, and I'm now Assistant Chief Executive & Corporate Director for Strategy & Resources. I'm really keen that we get young people from all backgrounds working for the Council. I never had any idea when I was at school about what I wanted to do when I 'grew up' but once I started work I realised that I was really interested in trying to make things better for people in Nottingham - the Council is a really great place to work if you want to try and make a difference."



Sign up for job email alerts at nottinghamcity.gov.uk/stayconnected
To see what jobs are currently available, visit nottinghamcity.gov.uk/vacancies

We particularly welcome applications from black, minority, ethnic communities and disabled people as they are currently under represented within our workforce.

New city taxi strateg



Nottingham's transport is among the best in the UK, with award-winning bus and tram services, quality cycle routes and hire, pollution-busting vehicles and major investment in roads, safety and infrastructure.

Hackney taxis and private hire vehicles are an essential part of this transport mix but they need to make big improvements to become a modern, customer-focused, safe and joined up service. That is why the Council is working with the taxi trade and launched its taxi strategy in February this year.

Taxi companies and drivers will be on a journey, directed by the City Council as the licensing authority, that will improve the customer experience by upgrading the drivers' code of conduct, ensuring that driver identification is made easy and introducing a customer feedback service to be advertised in all taxis.

Licenses will not be issued for diesel vehicles older than 10 years and by 2025 all Hackney carriages will have to comply with clean, low carbon standards.

A Driver Improvement Penalty Points Scheme will be introduced to make sure that all drivers of City Council licensed vehicles will follow expected standards and drivers will also undertake a fit and proper person test to allow them to gain a taxi licence.

Do you know?

■ The difference between Hackney taxis and private hire vehicles is that taxis ply for work from a rank, can be hailed in the street and undertake pre-booked work. Private hire services can only be pre-booked

■ There are currently 411 Hackney cabs and over 1,000 private hire vehicles licensed in Nottingham

■ There are 24 private hire companies licensed in Nottingham

■ The average age of a private hire vehicle in the city is 6 years and 11.5 years for Hackneys - one Hackney carriage is more than 20 years old

■ None of Nottingham's Hackney cabs meet the Euro 6 emission standard

■ 82% of the private hire cars are either petrol or diesel powered

■ There are currently 14 designated all-day taxi ranks in the city centre with an additional 13 ranks that come into force in the evening

■ The new ranks on Trent Street, increased the number of spaces available at the train station to 33

Strategy launched



Driving up taxi standards

A new Driver Improvement Penalty Point Scheme (DIPPS) is to be introduced in April to help improve the quality of Nottingham's taxis.

The ten-point scheme, for both Hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licence holders will set the standards for driver behaviour, customer service and passenger safety. DIPPS works similarly to a driving licence, with up to twelve points being applied over a three-year rolling period before their licence will be reviewed. If twelve points are exceeded, action will be taken against drivers and could lead to the licence being cancelled.

The penalty points will be awarded for driving vehicles in an un-roadworthy condition, not transporting passengers safely, not observing parking restrictions and failing to use a taxi meter for journeys within the city.

What do you think?

The new strategy is being developed to make the city's taxis and private hire vehicles a top class service. The City Council needs you to tell us what you think about taxi services to help shape the way forward.

As part of the improvement process, the City Council launched its taxi strategy in February - your views are a crucial part of the process.

What do you think about Nottingham's taxis and private hire vehicles? Are they easy to find and easy to book? Are they good value, clean and safe? Do you think the drivers are polite and look the part? What can be done to make the taxi service serve you better?

Visit nottinghamcity.gov.uk/taxis and tell us what you think. It will only take a couple of minutes to help shape the city's taxi future.

You will also be able to download a copy of the taxi strategy or you can pick a copy up at your local library and other City Council receptions.



Trying latest taxi technology

As part of the strategy, the City Council is looking at ways for taxis to use the latest technology to make vehicles greener and easier to use.

All Hackney carriages will need to be ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV) – electric - by 2025; with a minimum of 40% of Hackney carriages being ULEV by 2020. The target is for 25% of private hire fleet to be low-emission by 2020 and 50% of fleet by 2025. Licenses will be offered at a reduced rate for those drivers who take up ULEV. The Council is considering issuing a small number of additional licenses to speed up the take up of ultra-low emission vehicles and will investigate the opportunities to develop a ULEV vehicle leasing scheme.

For drivers an online application and renewal service for taxi license holders is to be introduced to help reduce costs for license holders and improve the application process. A mandatory eco driving course will be introduced as part of the process to obtain a license.

The Council will develop and launch an online/app based operator quality rating system to book taxis, encourage feedback on taxi driver quality and help to drive up standards. Incentives will be offered to drivers regularly receiving high quality ratings from customers, for example increased priority if grants become available for vehicle purchase.

An email-based Taxi E-Newsletter will be launched to improve communication between the City Council, the trade and its customers.

Quality Housing

A Better Quality Private Rented Sector for Nottingham

for all

The number of privately rented homes is on the rise, with more complaints being made about the quality of homes on offer. That is why the Council is proposing a new scheme to raise standards.

Called 'Selective Licensing,' new controls could be applied to all private rented homes in the city. It would mean that private landlords would have to maintain their property to an approved standard in order to successfully get a license to let their rental homes. It will also make sure that tenants will know exactly what to expect when they rent a home.

Consultation with tenants, residents, landlords and other interested parties will take place up to 31 March 2017 and depending on the outcome the scheme could be introduced from spring 2018.

The last Census shows that the number of privately rented homes increased by 12% between 2001 and 2011 and it is estimated that there are now more than 43,000 privately rented properties in the city.

Unfortunately, in the last four years the Council has received 4,500 complaints about poor quality standards in the private rented sector, with problems ranging from dangerous electrical wiring to a lack of safe escape routes. Areas with higher levels of poorly managed properties also have higher levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.



Calling all residents, landlords, tenants and letting agents!

Make sure that you have your say on the Council's proposals to introduce Selective Licensing to drive up quality standards in the private rented sector in Nottingham.

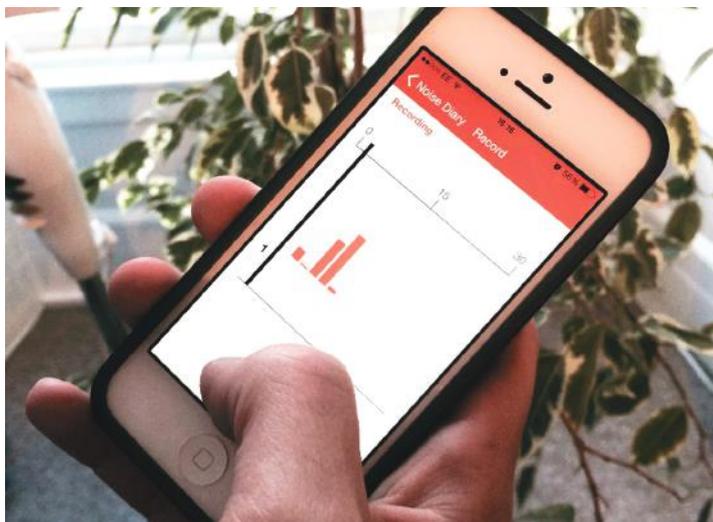
The proposals could affect you if you are a landlord, property management or lettings company or a tenant. The views of local community groups are also important.

The City Council will work with owners and managing agents to put in place guidelines on how to manage their properties effectively, so that landlords know exactly what is expected of them and tenants know what they should be offered by landlords.

Let us know what you think by completing the online questionnaire at nottinghamcity.gov.uk/qualityhousingforall



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A responsible landlord – Nottingham City Homes signs up to The Noise App

Nottingham City Homes (NCH), the organisation that manages the city's council housing on behalf of Nottingham City Council, has signed up to a new app to allow tenants who experience noise nuisance to report it more quickly and easily.

NCH tenants can now capture and record noise disturbances and send them in to their landlord using a smart phone. The app makes it easier and quicker to report noise and improves evidence-gathering in cases of noise nuisance. It also reduces the stress of reporting noise nuisance, simplifies the reporting process and improves the overall quality of evidence, doing away with the need for written diary sheets. For NCH, it enables the identification and prioritisation of noise issues and supports early intervention or enforcement.

NCH continues to set the standard for private landlords to follow through innovation such as this – to find out more, or to apply to become an NCH tenant, please visit www.nottinghamcityhomes.org.uk.



Nottingham City Homes

Palmer Court is UK's best new social housing

Palmer Court in Lenton has been named the best new social housing development in the country at this year's Local Authority Building Control Building Excellence Awards.

Nottingham City Homes built Palmer Court in the first phase of the three-year £16million regeneration of Lenton that has already seen the demolition of five high-rise tower blocks and on completion will include a mix of 142 family homes, bungalows, flats along with Palmer Court itself.

The new design changes the character of the area with well-lit routes through the site, retaining existing trees, a new open space and even a rooftop terrace to relax in on a sunny day.

Running costs are lower too – residents who were paying up to £120 a month in fuel bills are saving an estimated £500 per year – thanks to the 85 roof top solar panels, smart meters and energy efficient boilers.



Nottingham City Council Budget C

Money for Council Services

The Government is providing less...



...while generally you pay more

Local people and businesses are set to generally pay more while the Government pays less to fund council services.

This is because of more Government cuts and changes to how public services are funded. The Government plans to phase out the grant it provides to councils altogether by the end of the current Parliament - shifting funding arrangements from national taxation to local taxation through Council Tax and Business Rates.

Council Tax is proposed to increase by 1.99% but the Government expects councils to levy an additional 'Social Care precept' which could see a further rise of up to 3% to contribute to the Adult Social Care shortfall. A 3% levy for social care would raise £3 million - but this would not meet the cost of around £10 million

the city needs to care just for the extra number of elderly and disabled people requiring services each year. Difficult decisions about council services will need to be made in order to balance our budget. We need to hear the views of local residents and businesses to help understand how these decisions will affect you.

Council Tax 2017/2018

**Basic increase
Up to 1.99%**



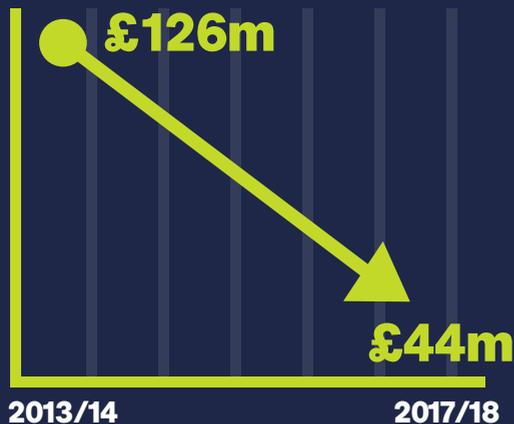
**Additional Government
proposed increase to
help pay for social care
Up to 3%**



Total increase - up to 4.99%

Consultation 2017

Government grant funding for council services has been cut by £82m*



The Government has cut the money Nottingham gets for its day-to-day services by £82 million over the last four years.

Next year, the Council has to find a further £27 million of savings. This is on top of £204 million the Council has saved over the past seven years.

The Council is also proposing a reduction of 63 posts to help stave off significant service impacts – on top of reductions over the past five years. It continues to focus its efforts on changing the way services are provided and pursuing commercial opportunities while trying to minimise the impact of cuts on vulnerable people.

Nottingham has been hit harder than most by Government cuts, with people in Nottingham losing £28 per household this year in main Government grants while in Rutland for example, people are only losing £4. Earlier this year, the Government handed out £150 million of extra cash to some councils through a 'transitional grant' scheme – mainly to better off places in the South like Surrey and Hampshire. However, big cities like Nottingham, Derby and Leicester – who have already been hit hardest by funding cuts – got nothing.

*Government Revenue Support Grant for Nottingham City Council has reduced from £126 million in 2013/14 to £44 million in 2017/18

Budget proposals – where could things be changing?

The Council is continuing to do what it can to protect services including...

- Children's centres
- Keeping crime and anti-social behaviour down
- Keeping Nottingham as the cleanest big city in the country
- Weekly bin collections
- Services to protect children and vulnerable adults

As part of the draft budget proposals and in order to try to protect vital services, the Council is...

- Bringing in additional income
- Making more efficiencies and doing some things differently
- Reducing demand and reviewing the way we commission some of our services

Proposals to balance the 2017/18 budget include...

- Introducing a fare on Centrelink and Medilink bus services
- Reviewing on-street parking charges
- Redesigning the running of Children's Centres
- Carrying out efficiencies in Play and Youth services
- Reducing Youth Crime services
- Reducing funding for Nottingham Futures
- Introducing a charge for non-domestic use of the Household Waste Service
- Reviewing Leisure Centre and Bereavement Services fees and charges
- Reducing cultural grants

“Have Your Say...”

There's still time to let us know your views:
www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/budget16

You can also comment via  [@MyNottingham](https://twitter.com/MyNottingham)

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Is your friend being hurt by their partner?

Domestic abuse is common. It's likely that everyone will know someone who is being hurt by their partner or an ex.

It can be very difficult for someone who is experiencing domestic abuse to reach out to an expert support service or to the police. So if you find out that someone close to you is being abused, you could be the only person who knows.

As a friend or family member, it's not up to you to stop the abuse. But you can do a lot to help by taking a few simple steps.

If you're worried about your friend's relationship, don't delay.

Call the 24-hour free local domestic abuse helpline and find out how you can help - 0808 800 0340

You can also go online to access a simple interactive guide about how to help, created by local domestic abuse charity Equation at equation.org.uk/help-someone

Robin Hood Energy helps businesses save money

Nottingham's not-for-profit energy supplier, Robin Hood Energy, has already had huge success in lowering the energy bills for homes across the city and now pledges to save businesses across the city money on their gas and electricity.

Launched in September 2015, Robin Hood Energy was set up by Nottingham City Council to help tackle fuel poverty and help those struggling to pay their energy bills. Now 18 months on, Robin Hood Energy is set to launch its first business energy tariffs. What's more, if you're a business that falls within the Nottingham city boundary, you will be eligible for a discounted 'Nottingham Business Tariff' which means you pay less for your business gas and electricity just because you're based in Nottingham.

Commercial Manager for Robin Hood Energy, Sukhy Pooni said: "We've been working really hard since our launch to make sure we're fully prepared to offer competitive gas and electricity tariffs to businesses. Businesses across the country can now take advantage of our great rates but local businesses will also qualify for our discounted Nottingham Business Tariff and save more."



Robin Hood Energy officially launches its business tariffs in mid-February but if you're interested in getting more information before then you can email business@robinhoodenergy.co.uk



Sustainable Nottingham

“Have Your Say...”

What is sustainable development? It's about harmonising environmental protection, social inclusion and economic growth, to improve quality of life.

Sustainability is one of Nottingham's key priorities. We are tackling fuel poverty through the creation of Robin Hood Energy and domestic energy efficiency schemes. We are delivering low carbon energy around the city through the largest district heat network in the UK and a significant solar power programme.

We also have a well-integrated transport network which includes Europe's largest electric bus fleet and a tram service. Nottingham has lots of green spaces including 29 Green Flag parks for people and wildlife to enjoy. All this has contributed to achieving our climate change target 4 years early!

So what's next?

We want to develop a shared vision across the city and a series of actions to help us all achieve a more sustainable Nottingham.

We want to know your views on Nottingham's sustainable future. What is your vision for a sustainable Nottingham? What is working well and what needs improving? What ideas do you have for a greener, healthier, more prosperous future for our city?

Your feedback will be used to help develop an action plan that will drive sustainable development in Nottingham that prioritises what is important to the people who live here.

Please take two minutes to have your say on our city's bright future – and a chance to win a pair of tickets for CIRQUE DU SOLEIL: VAREKAI – by filling in the short online survey:

www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/sustainability

All respondents will be entered into a prize draw to win a pair of tickets to see CIRQUE DU SOLEIL: VAREKAI at the Motorpoint Arena Nottingham on Friday 10th March (evening show). The deadline for entries for the prize is 28 February 2017.

If you want the survey posted to you, or if you need the survey in a different format or language, please call 0115 876 3313.



We are working with stakeholders across the city to develop the action plan.





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Nottingham
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Living Happier, Healthier Lives



The Nottingham Health and Wellbeing Board partners have released a four-year plan to improve people's lives, targeting help for those from the poorest communities.

The aim is to work with the more deprived areas of the city where life expectancy rates are lower and “add life to years, not just years to life.” In Nottingham the age that you can expect to live without having a serious health condition is 57.8 years for men and 58.4 years for women – both five-and-a-half years below the national average.



The Happier, Healthier Lives plan will help children and adults adopt a healthy lifestyle, have positive mental wellbeing, encouraging a healthy culture in the city and make the environment sustainable to support health and wellbeing. The strategy was put together following a number of consultation events where more than 500 people gave their views.



STP The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Sustainability and Transformation Plan

A healthier future for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

Summary Guide



Have your say on plans to transform health and social care

A draft five-year plan for the future of health and social care in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire has been developed. It's called the Sustainability and Transformation Plan.

The plan considers how we can best improve the quality of care, the health and wellbeing of local people, and the finances of local services.

A special event is being held for people to find out more about the plan and ask questions on Wednesday 22 February from 5pm-7pm at the Council House in Old Market Square, Nottingham.

Copies of the plan are available from: www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care/sustainability-and-transformation-plan-stp/



The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Sustainability and Transformation Plan

Keep Nottingham moving



Nobody likes them but road works are needed to make our roads safer, reduce congestion and keep Nottingham moving.

The City Council knows that road works can be annoying; we always say sorry when issues arise and look at ways to help reduce the impact of works.

The frequency of road works in the last few years is the result of many millions of pounds being invested in road and transport improvements, largely following successful bids to the Government for European Union and D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership funding.

This has included the two new tram lines, Nottingham rail station's transformation, Ring Road improvements, the A453 widening scheme, Station Street, Carrington Street and the Creative Quarter improvement programme. Works now under way or set to start soon include Eco Expressway, Nottingham Cycle Ambition Programme and the redevelopment of the Broadmarsh area.

We know that the works are making a difference and will make travel easier for all.



Nottingham is one of the UK's least car dependant cities and has the UK's second highest level of bus use per head, with 77 million bus and tram journeys taken per year. 75% of primary school children and 49% of secondary school pupils walk to school, cycle use is up a third and there has been a 9% reduction in traffic on our roads over the last five years.

A recent survey showed that the city is tops for transport. Nottingham's people are the UK's most satisfied with their roads and transport services, how mobility and accessibility issues are dealt with, the quality of public transport, walking and cycling facilities, tackling congestion, road safety and repairs.



City transport Looking to the future

Nottingham is on a journey to become the UK's greenest transport city.

Environmentally-friendly transport services, including the extended tram network and creating Europe's largest electric bus fleet, are already helping to reduce carbon emissions and congestion and make the city's air cleaner.

In the near future plans will be put into place to help improve air quality further, including the introduction of a clear air zone in the city centre and low emission lanes in road developments, as being trialled on the Eco Expressway currently under construction.

There are projects being planned now that will make the future even greener such as installing electric vehicle charging points and looking at ways to help more people, businesses and taxis switch to using electric vehicles.

Shared mobility – the use of car clubs, bike share and car shares – and using more environmentally friendly transport options for the 'final mile' of delivery vehicle journeys have great potential to reduce the number of vehicles on the road even more.

Using autonomous, driverless, vehicles for individual or shared use is a long way off yet but the Council is involved in trials taking place locally. Investing in better, safer roads and the city's public transport network will keep Nottingham moving in the right direction.



Could you be an EV Champion?

Go Ultra Low Nottingham are looking for enthusiastic and passionate Electric Vehicle and Plug in Hybrid Electric Vehicle owners in Nottingham and Derby to be part of our EV champions programme.

With your permission, you will feature on our website with a picture of your vehicle along with a small testimonial on why you decided to Go Ultra Low! You will be leading the charge as our programme gathers pace and will be given the chance to talk to other EV owners, spread the word about the technology and have the opportunity to advise the team as those who know the needs and requirements of ULEV drivers first hand. To take part, contact us at goultralow@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

For more information visit goultralownottingham.org.uk/events

The Council, in partnership with intu Victoria Centre, is hosting an EV test drive event on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 February 2017. It will take place outside John Lewis on the lower mall. This is the first of the 2017 Go Ultra Low promotions, showcasing electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. Visitors will also have the chance to test drive a low emission vehicle on Level 6 of the multi-storey car park.



More than a cycle recycler

Nottingham Bikeworks is a not-for-profit community organisation that is working to encourage everyone to discover the pleasures and benefits of cycling.

If you have a once loved but now unwanted bike Nottingham Bikeworks can take it off your hands, repair it and find it a new home. Donated bikes will be used to support community projects across the city and their wide variety of bike projects target disadvantaged members of the community.

Based in a Victorian mill in the Arboretum, just a stone's throw from Raleigh's first factory, the heart of the organisation is their superbly equipped Raleigh Community Workshop. It is here that the bike projects are run, popular bike maintenance classes take place and City and Guilds accredited courses are held.

Cycle training is available to individuals and groups and a varied programme of events and local rides has been organised.

'The Bikery,' a specialist workshop and classroom for educational support and training to young people, is currently under development.

Of course if you simply want your bike fixed or to buy one of their fully guaranteed and refurbished bikes you can do so at a very reasonable cost. Or maybe you would like to join their team of brilliant volunteers.



For more information go to nottinghambikeworks.org.uk
Or find them on Facebook or Twitter.





Calling all city young creatives

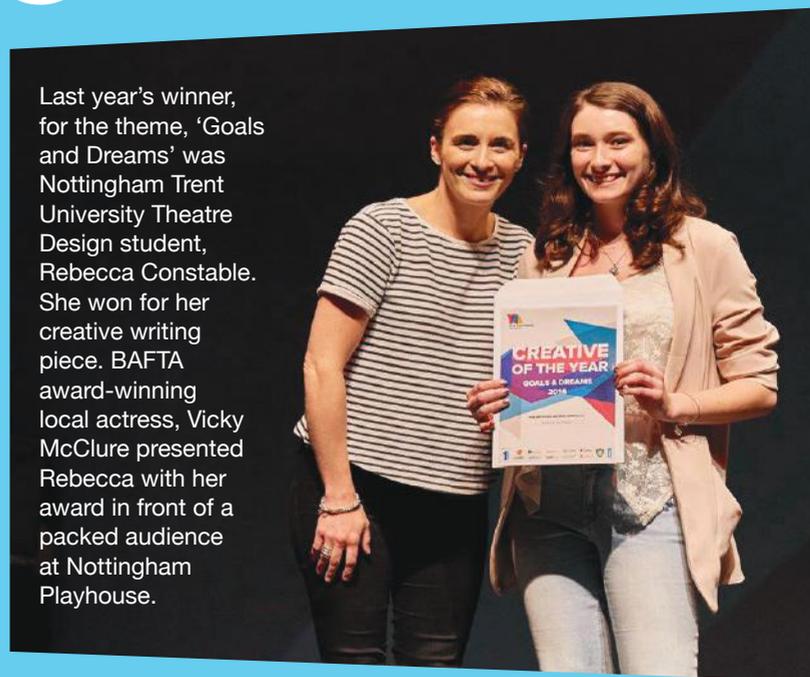
Entries are now open for the Nottingham Young Creative Awards 2017, a chance for young people to show off their creative work, meet possible future employers and gain valuable industry experience.

The theme this year is 'Nottingham, Future City' and young people, aged 13 to 24 who live, study or work in Nottingham, can let their imaginations fly and enter pieces of work that reflect their ideas, dreams, plans and the changes they want to see for themselves or the city in the future.

It might be a poem, a photograph, an article of clothing, a song, a painting, a design, a film, a dance, a short story or whatever artistic endeavour that shows your dream of the future.

There are 10 categories and there will also be an overall winner across all the categories to be named as the Young Creative of the Year 2017, winning a cash prize and the opportunity of work experience or mentoring from experts in their creative area.

Last year's winner, for the theme, 'Goals and Dreams' was Nottingham Trent University Theatre Design student, Rebecca Constable. She won for her creative writing piece. BAFTA award-winning local actress, Vicky McClure presented Rebecca with her award in front of a packed audience at Nottingham Playhouse.



Entries can be made by individuals, groups, a study group or a club. The closing date is 13 March 2017, with the awards ceremony taking place at the Nottingham Playhouse on Wednesday 10 May 2017.

All entrants will be invited to the free awards ceremony.

The theme this year is 'Nottingham, Future City'

Young Creative Awards
Nottingham

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For more information about the competition go to
youngcreativeawards.org





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