

# The impact of COVID-19 on Nottingham's Parks and Greenspaces



[www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/parks](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/parks)

[www.facebook.com/NottinghamParks](https://www.facebook.com/NottinghamParks)

Twitter:- @RealmPublic @NottinghamParks @NottinghamFPA

Eddie Curry MBA FLI  
Head of Public Realm



# Public Realm Service

The **Public Realm Service** came together as one service in January 2019 following the 2018/19 restructure of the Parks and Open Space Team and Street scene and Grounds Maintenance team.

## The Service now includes:-

- Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance inc Commercial Grounds maintenance contracts for Schools and Property +, NCH contracts, Graffiti and Dog Fouling Removal Teams & Fly tipping Removal
- Parks Administration and Development inc Biodiversity and Allotments & Park Rangers
- Play Area Development and Maintenance
- Landscape Services inc Horticultural Nursery and Retail Garden Centre
- Tree and Woodland Services
- Cemetery and Cremation Services
- Future Parks Accelerator Team (HLF/ National Trust Funded Programme)



# Manifesto Commitments

## 2019-23

### Parks & Open Spaces

- Complete the World War 1 Centenary Nottingham Roll of Honour and bid for funding to restore and improve Victoria Embankment Memorial Gardens
- Ensure Nottingham is a “bee-friendly” city with suitable habitats in every neighbourhood
- Maintain and improve 100 play areas across the city
- Plant at least 10,000 trees across the city
- Work with local people and community organisations to expand and protect Nottingham’s Green Flag winning parks and play areas

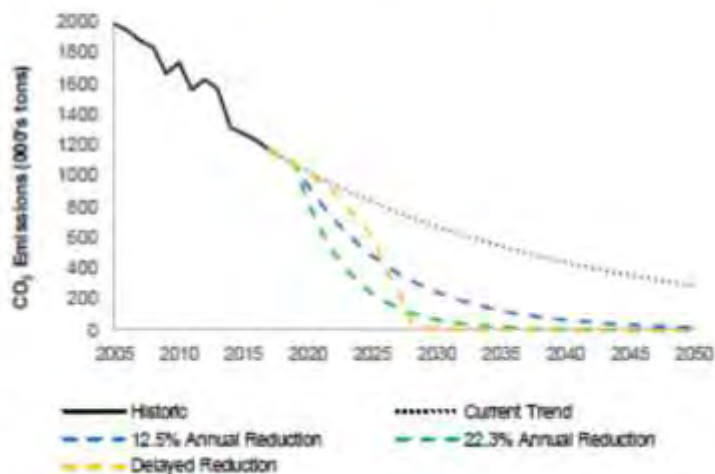
### Street Scene

- Ensure Nottingham is the cleanest big city in England and keep neighbourhoods as clean as the city centre (**TOP 5**)
- Manage public spaces, pavements and gullies to minimise weeds and keep Nottingham tidy
- Protect from cuts: Teams that clean up graffiti and dog fouling within 48 hours of reporting
- Replace every litter bin in the city centre and roll out a programme of replacements in neighbourhoods

# CN28

Carbon Neutral Nottingham 2028

On the 13th January 2020, Nottingham City Council acknowledged the scale of this challenge by declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency at Full Council, recognising the immediate action required to achieve sustainable carbon neutrality.



- The Team are leading on 2 CN28 work stream action plans:-
    - **Ecology & Biodiversity**
    - **Carbon Removal**
  - Also contributing to:-*
    - Adaptation and Resilience
    - Consumption
- [www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/CN2028](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/CN2028)



# Budgets 2020/21

## Public Realm - Street Scene and Grounds Maintenance

Pre Covid19 Budget Position					
Income £m	Running Costs £m	Employees £m	Net £m		FTE
(3.258)	0.753	7.400	4.895		303.2

**Total Gross  
Budget**  
£13,141.000

**Total Net costs**  
PAOS £1.788  
Cem & Crems -£1.308  
Net £0.480

## Public Realm - Cems & Crems

Pre Covid19 Budget Position					
Income £m	Running Costs £m	Employees £m	Net £m		FTE
(2.552)	0.423	0.822	(1.308)		30.9

**Total Income**  
£7,764.000

**Total Net Cost**  
£5,377.000

**Total**  
In year Budget  
Reductions Total  
£528,000

## Public Realm - Parks & Open Spaces

Pre Covid19 Budget Position					
Income £m	Running Costs £m	Employees £m	Net £m		FTE
(1.954)	1.036	2.707	1.788		90.31

**Total Head  
Count** 424.41

Revised Net cost of  
PAOS & Cem & Crems -  
£0.048

# Types of Income Affected

- Commercial income
  - Landscaping
  - Grounds maintenance and cleansing
  - Event support



- Parks rental
  - Long term leases
  - Catering Concessions
  - Event / Sports bookings
  - Sponsorship



- Golf course
  - Golf membership / Pay and Play
  - Cafe



# Projected Income Loss

- Lockdown 1 Projected losses in the first quarter are approx. £80,000 p/m
- From July onwards - Lockdown 2 - some services start to resume we anticipate this reducing to £20,000-£30,000 p/m
- Lockdown 3 November to date - projected losses increased again

**Total full year loss projection £510,000**

# In Year Spend Mitigations

Reduction of 10% across discretionary spend budgets – £100,000

Held all current vacancies (with the exception of statutory or essential posts) – £438,000 - This has been extremely challenging as we have been and are still supporting the waste service throughout the lockdowns

Additional One off income projects - £50,000

**Total full year mitigation projection- £588,000**



# Future Parks Accelerator Programme

- ▶ Commenced June 2019
- ▶ Programme extension to end March 2022 , with Mid point review moved to end of March 2021
  
- ▶ Nottingham 1 of 8 Cohorts
- ▶ 4 Key Themes:
  - ▶ Volunteering
  - ▶ Consultation / Community Engagement
  - ▶ Commercialism
  - ▶ Charitable Foundation
  
- ▶ Completion of a 25 year strategy
  - ▶ Understands the narrative
  - ▶ Actions for Implementing the change
  - ▶ Links to other emerging strategies and policies
  - ▶ Shows how our O&GS can be sustainable



# Nottingham's Natural Capital Account

## Making the Case for Parks!



**Trees cover 52%** of Nottingham's Parks,

a total of 868ha of land – the equivalent of 1300 football pitches

Parks sequester (store)

**5172T**

of carbon per annum

in trees and soil, the equivalent of driving 15.5 million miles at 30 miles per gallon



Nottingham's Park and Open Spaces receive **22.6 million visits per year,**

mental and physical health benefits worth **£22 per visit** on average



Nottingham's Parks and Open Spaces generate **£510 million**

in additional benefits to the city each year, or around **£4.2 billion** over 10 years



Parks cover **1670ha** of the city,

giving approximately **£306,000** per hectare in benefits to the city

Parks generate

**£13 million**

a year in amenity value

– the amount of money people are willing to spend in order to live in close proximity to greenspace



Parks contribute a total of **£497 million** per annum in health benefits,

the equivalent of 5500 GP wages or 16.5 million GP appointments



Small parks contribute **£65 million** per annum in health benefits

to the city, and contain **77%** of the city's play areas

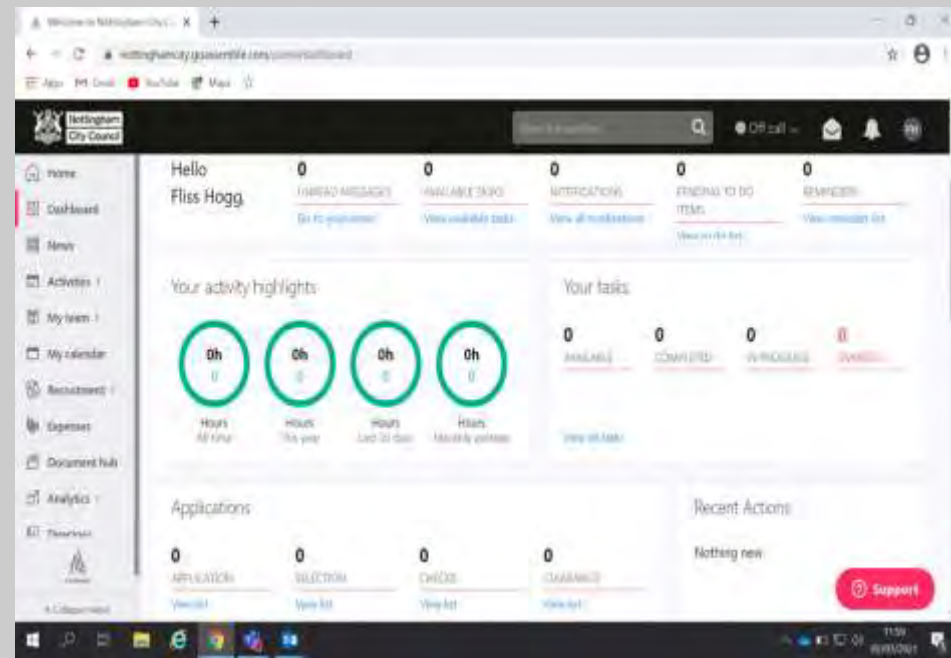
Nottingham's Parks create **£285** of health, amenity & carbon base benefits for every **£1** of funding spent by NCC





# Volunteer Programme

- **The volunteer programme is called Nottingham Green Guardians and has its own branding.**
- **Currently developing a website which will be a one stop shop for all things volunteering** in the public realm – benefits of volunteering, opportunities, how to apply, map and details of all friends groups, corporate volunteering information, case studies/blogs, useful information, stats and celebration.
- **Volunteer Management system (Assemble) is being implemented** – this will aid management of volunteers, enable more efficient and effective recruitment and communications, meet GDPR, enable volunteers to log their hours, activities and training and ultimately enable us to gain a true understanding of all the fantastic things volunteers are doing.
- **Recruitment of a volunteer coordinator** – this role will provide day to day coordination of the volunteer programme, support staff in volunteer management training and roll out new volunteer opportunities.
- **Green Group Fund low level funding pot** for groups involved with ‘green’ voluntary activities on Nottingham’s parks and open spaces
- **Website and management system** should go live in April

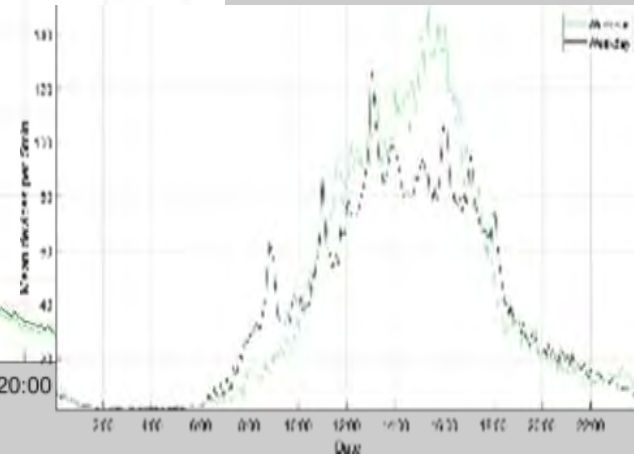
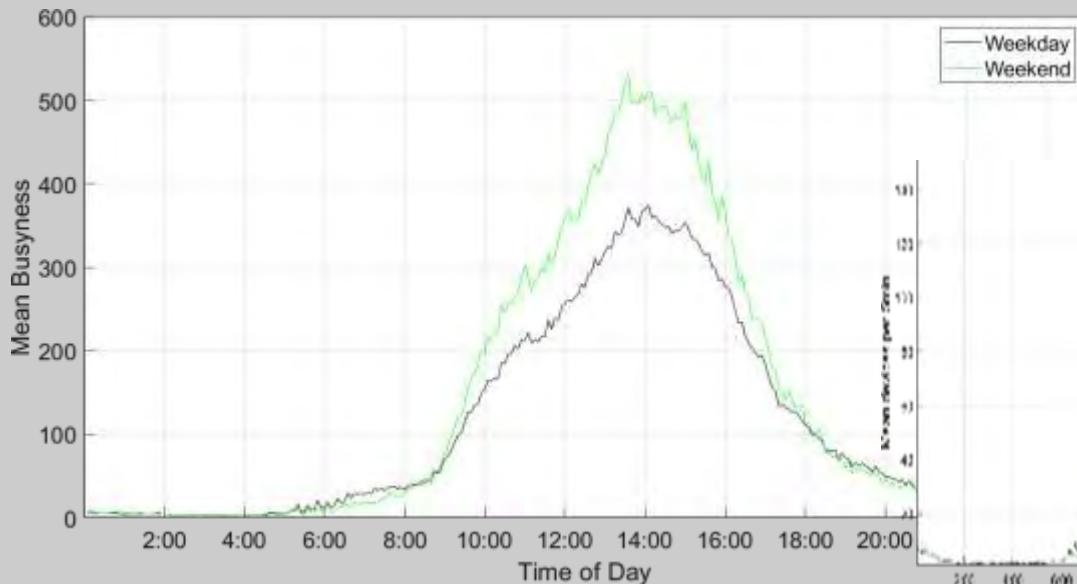


Building and strengthening service through Commercial Income Generation, **Innovation** and Partnership Working.

## WISEparks Project -

<https://www.horizon.ac.uk/project/wiseparks/>

Wi-fi sensing to measure the ‘busyness’ of parks



Building and strengthening service through **Commercial Income Generation**, Innovation and Partnership Working.

Introduction of an online sales platform for our Nursery Plant Shop



[www.woodthorpeparkplantshop.com](http://www.woodthorpeparkplantshop.com)





# Improving Biodiversity, flood resilience and climate adaptation.

Nottingham Grass Reduction / Rewilding Project.

City wide plan to improve Biodiversity / Bee Friendly habitats.



**Nottingham Public Realm -  
Grass Mowing Reduction /  
Re-wilding Programme  
2020/21**

Felicity Allen Biodiversity and Green Space Policy Officer  
t: 0115 876 4066 | 07506 143 822 e: felicity.allen@nottinghamcc

Chick Egerton Service Manager - Street Scene and Grounds Maint  
t: 0115 876 2010 | 07980 945 006 e: chick.egerton@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Eddie Curry Head of Public Realm  
t: 0115 876 4062 | 07540 001 136 e: eddie.curry@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

1st May 2020

Nottingham City Council



# Improving Biodiversity, flood resilience and climate adaptation.

## Aim to plant 50,000 trees by 2023:

- Over 13,000 trees planted so far – 3,500 trees planted in Dec 2020.
- Tiny Forest projects planned with external partners
- Blossom Project with National Trust





# Improving Biodiversity, flood resilience and climate adaptation.

## ERDF funding to de-culvert & realign the Day Brook through Valley Road park

- biodiversity gain through new wetland habitats
- flood storage
- 160 properties better protected from flooding



# Building and strengthening service through Commercial Income Generation, Innovation and Partnership Working

Funded through donation from the Nottingham Building  
Society  
3year Programme

Our Story Parks Project was set to host a  
programme of summer activities in our  
parks. The Programme is now fully  
online <https://storyparksnottingham.com>



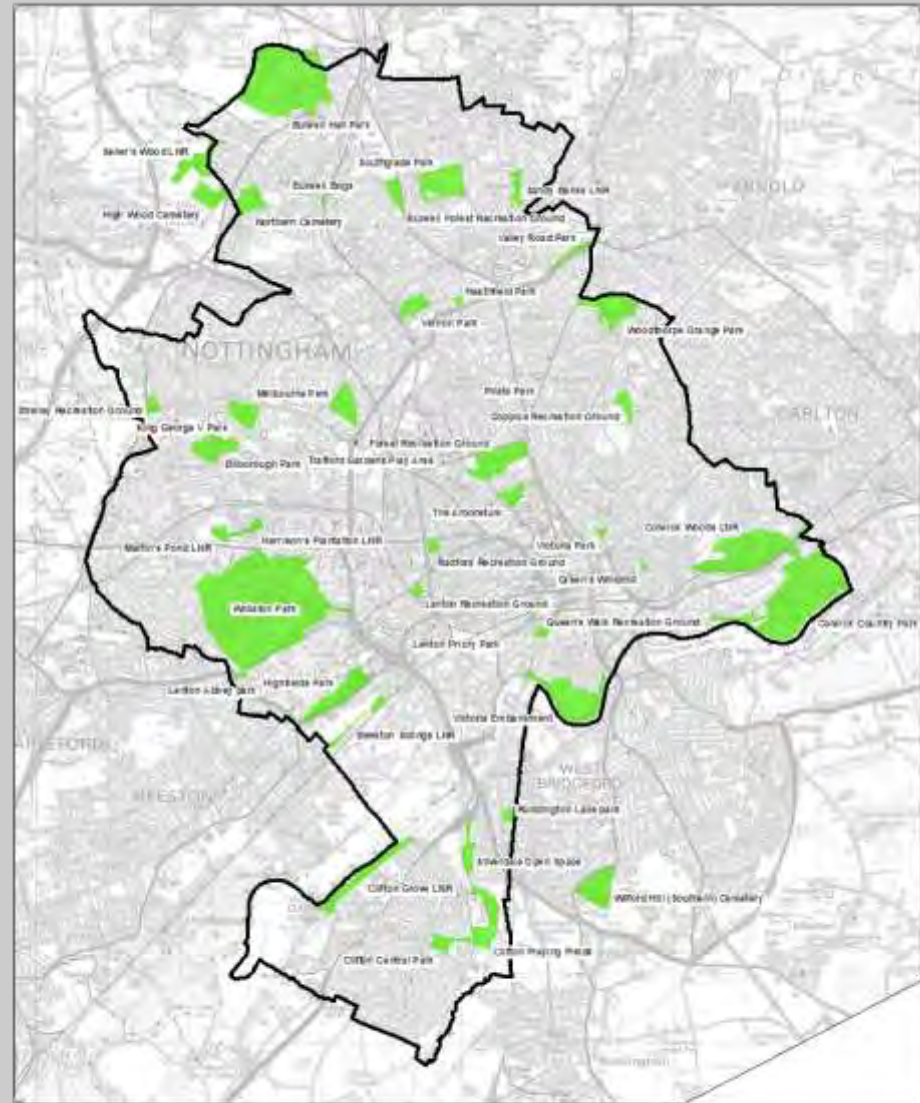
# Green Flag Improvement Programme

Ongoing investment in our green spaces -  
**£46m invested since 2007**

- £13.77 external funding raised for every £1 NCC funding
- From multi-£m Lottery-funded restorations to multiple £50-£100k FCC bids every year.



Nottingham City Green Flag Award Sites 2020-21



Legend  
 City Boundary  
 Green Flag sites  
 Year  
 2020 sites  
 Future sites

**2020**  
 41 NCC Green Flag parks  
 3 University Green Flag sites  
 4 Green Heritage Awards  
 25 Green Flag Community Awards  
**TOTAL: 73**



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# Positive impacts of the Covid-19

1. Huge increase in visitor numbers - strong community value and support / political awareness. This is now starting to impact of the quality of sites.
2. All staff who can are working from home and have developed online communication skills.
3. Development work has continued albeit construction on site has slowed. – NHLF Stage One award secured. Stage Two bid under development.
4. Green Flag Inspections have be suspended! - Mystery Shop inspections in the Autumn.
5. Time to Rethink! Colwick Country Park and Victoria Embankment Parks have seen significant increases in visitor numbers due to fewer cars. This has been transformational as previously cars travelled through or to park a central car park. We are now considering remodelling the access which will prevent cars driving through in the future.
6. Introduction of an online sales platform for our Nursery Plant Shop  
[www.woodthorpeparkplantshop.com](http://www.woodthorpeparkplantshop.com)



# Social Distancing

## Enjoy our parks SAFELY!



Wash your hands



Keep a safe distance from other people (3 steps)



Sneeze or cough into your sleeve



Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands



All play areas are now closed



Only 1 person per park bench unless from same household



Your local playground and outdoor gym equipment will be reopening from **Monday 6 July**



Observe social distance



Wash your hands before and after



Take litter home with you if bins are full



# PLEASE NOTE

In the interest of public safety and to reducing the spread of **COVID-19** Facility is **NOW CLOSED**.

help us to reduce the spread of **COVID-19** by not using this area.

[amcity.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://amcity.gov.uk/coronavirus)



## Play Area Now Open

Please enjoy this play area by following these rules:

- Clean your hands before and after visiting
- Avoid touching your face
- Keep 2m from other people where possible
- Only one adult per child in the play park at once
- No food or drink within the play area

Please follow these rules so that this play area can stay open and wait or visit another time if busy



## SHOULD PARKS HAVE A POLICE PRESENCE THIS COMING WEEKEND?



Nottingham  
City Council

- **Nottingham City Council – Public Realm Teams Service Re Commencement Plan**

### **Phase 1 March – April**

All Public Realm services Suspended only core functions continue  
Staff on rolling rota of work on/ off

### **Phase 2 April – May**

All Public Realm services Suspended only core functions continue  
Staff on rolling rota of work on/ off  
Some emergency works reintroduced

### **Phase 3 June – July**

All Public Realm services restart along with the reopening of parks concessions and facilities  
Some emergency and programmed works reintroduced  
All Staff to be recalled and full operational delivery to commence  
30 staff and vehicles transfer to waste

### **Phase 4 August – September**

All services restart but with reduced capacity due to continued staff transfer to support waste  
Re open Play Areas?

### **Phase 5 October - November**

Review Labour board requirements continue

### **Phase 6 December – March**

Review Labour board requirements continue  
Lockdown all activities and outdoor Gyms closed – community sports and volunteering stopped.



# Easing of restrictions

## STEP 1 8 March 29 March

### EDUCATION

- 8 MARCH**
- Schools and colleges open for all students
  - Practical Higher Education courses

### SOCIAL CONTACT

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>8 MARCH</b>  | <b>29 MARCH</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exercise and recreation outdoors with household or one other person</li> <li>Household only indoors</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rule of 6 or two households outdoors</li> <li>Household only indoors</li> </ul> |

### BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>8 MARCH</b>   | <b>29 MARCH</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wraparound care, including sport, for all children</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organised outdoor sport (children and adults)</li> <li>Outdoor sport and leisure facilities</li> <li>All outdoor children's activities</li> <li>Outdoor parent &amp; child group (up to 15 parents)</li> </ul> |

### TRAVEL

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>8 MARCH</b>  | <b>29 MARCH</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stay at home</li> <li>No holidays</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise travel</li> <li>No holidays</li> </ul> |

### EVENTS

- Funerals (30)
- Weddings and wakes (6)

## STEP 2 No earlier than 12 April

At least 5 weeks after Step 1

### EDUCATION

- As previous step

### SOCIAL CONTACT

- Rule of 6 or two households outdoors
- Household only indoors

### BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES

- All retail
- Personal care
- Libraries & community centres
- Most outdoor attractions
- Indoor leisure inc. gyms (individual use only)
- Self-contained accommodation
- All children's activities
- Outdoor hospitality
- Indoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents)

### TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight stays (household only)
- No international holidays

### EVENTS

- Funerals (30)
- Weddings, wakes, receptions (15)
- Event pilots

## STEP 3 No earlier than 17 May

At least 5 weeks after Step 2

### EDUCATION

- As previous step

### SOCIAL CONTACT

- Maximum 30 people outdoors
- Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review)

### BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES

- Indoor hospitality
- Indoor entertainment and attractions
- Organised indoor sport (adult)
- Remaining accommodation
- Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances)

### TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight stays
- International travel (subject to review)

### EVENTS

- Most significant life events (30)
- Indoor events: 1,000 or 50%
- Outdoor seated events: 10,000 or 25%
- Outdoor other events: 4,000 or 50%

## STEP 4 No earlier than 21 June

At least 5 weeks after Step 3

All subject to review

### EDUCATION

- As previous step

### SOCIAL CONTACT

- No legal limit

### BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES

- Remaining businesses, including nightclubs

### TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight stays
- International travel

### EVENTS

- No legal limit on life events
- Larger events

# Summary Position

- Full Year Income Loss - £510,000
- Full Year Spend Mitigation - £588,000
- New Income and Covid Recovery Funds

Additional Budget Savings have been confirmed for 2021/22

Period 11 budget forecast - our Budgets are now back on track and projected to deliver our Business plan targets.

Looking foreword to seeing lots of community sports and people enjoying our Parks - Extra Bins and CPO patrols ready to be deployed.



Thank you

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 Nottingham City Council

Speaker: Eddie Curry, Head of Public Realm,  
Nottingham City Council.

