

# Strategic Skills Plan & Adult Skills Fund (ASF) Procurement Launch

Wednesday 15 January 2025



# Questions during the event

If you have any questions during the event, please forward them to **[vicky.lear@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:vicky.lear@nottscc.gov.uk)**

We will collate and share responses, and recording of Teams event with all attendees.

# Economic context

## Richard Grice

Interim Executive Director of Place

**Morning Session**

## Damien Dacey

Interim – Chief Executive

Afternoon Session

# EMCCA Region



**4,784**  
square kilometres



**1.4 million**  
people of working age




**Large and diverse region**, with an urban and rural mix




**80%**  
of UK population within 4-hour drive of EMCCA



Largest employment sectors are **health, manufacturing, retail and education**




**11.8%** of those employed work in manufacturing, compared to 7% for England as a whole



Significant future growth in **nuclear and hydrogen power**



Average pay of people living in D2N2 **lower** than regional and national averages



Strong and collaborative **FE and HE** sectors

# Inclusive Growth



**Grow our economy** faster, through targeted long-term investment, so that it is resilient enough to withstand future challenges



**Match skills to economic need** to increase productivity and wellbeing



Support businesses to **create more and higher paid sustainable jobs** so that our citizens are able to access the jobs they want within the area



Create a **net-zero economy with a resilient energy supply**



Create **modern and robust infrastructure** that releases the private sector to deliver new homes and businesses



Build **new and coherent transport links** for better and more sustainable access to our economic hubs, cities, market towns and major employers



**Reduce inequality and promote social mobility** to allow people to achieve their potential



**Improve healthy life expectancy** and reduce inequalities, especially in communities and groups who are most disadvantaged



**Support enhanced green spaces** to welcome nature back into our communities



Use our **devolution powers to bring decision-making closer to those who live and work here**

# ASF Strategic Skills Plan (SSP)

## Sets out:

- Strategic vision and priorities.
- EMCCA area profile – opportunities and challenges.
- AEB delivery data.
- Funding overview – ASF, FCFJ, Skills Bootcamps, UKSPF etc.
- Principles of commissioning.
- ASF outcomes and impact.
- SSP will be updated regularly

# The challenges



Lower productivity than the national average



Higher economic inactivity than the national average



Workplace wages are below the national and regional averages



Rapid increase of low-skilled, low paid jobs

# Focus areas

**Making our region more prosperous, sustainable and fairer.**

**Key focus areas:**

- productivity
- pay and jobs
- spreading opportunity
- community pride
- and empowering local leaders and communities.



# Economic vision of EMCCA

## Increased productivity for our region

through the delivery of high-quality skills provision which enables our residents to enter the labour market or secure in-work progression.

## Reduce inequality, promote social mobility

and allow people to achieve their potential.

## Work in alignment with other public funding sources

to offer coherent routes to upskilling and greater prosperity across the region.



East Midlands  
Combined County  
Authority

# Adult Skills Fund

## Craig Moffatt

Head of Adult Skills Programmes

# ASF - Adult Skills Fund - Devolved – c53 Million pounds - 25/26

## Education and Training (Formula funded)

- 19+
- This covers regulated and non-regulated, Maths and English (legal entitlement) in a classroom, 1:1, distance or e-learning or hybrid/blended.

## Community Learning/ Tailored Learning

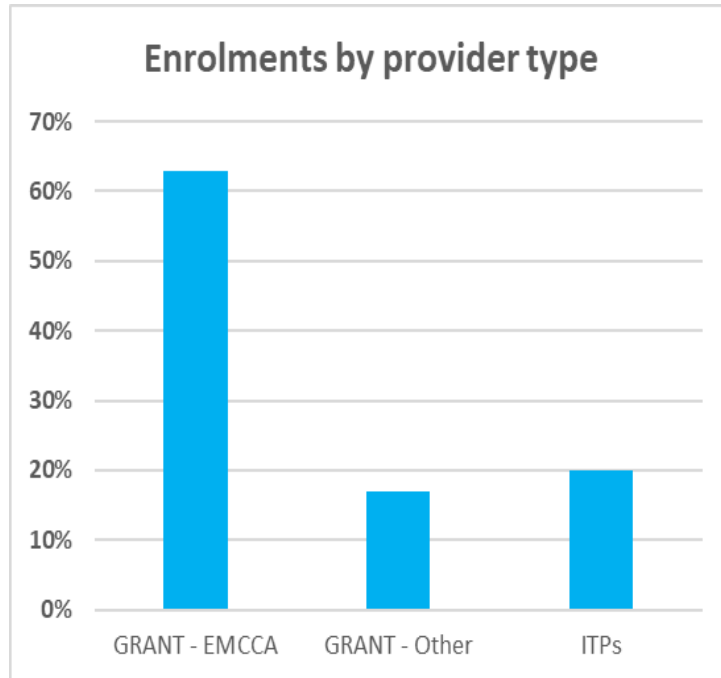
- 19+
- This funds a wide range of non-regulated courses, ranging from personal development through to, IT courses, employability skills, family learning and activities to promote engagement and community development

## Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ)

- Delegated - 24+
- A targeted Level 3 offer to support adults without an existing full Level 3 qualification or who meet the definition of 'low wage' or 'unemployed'

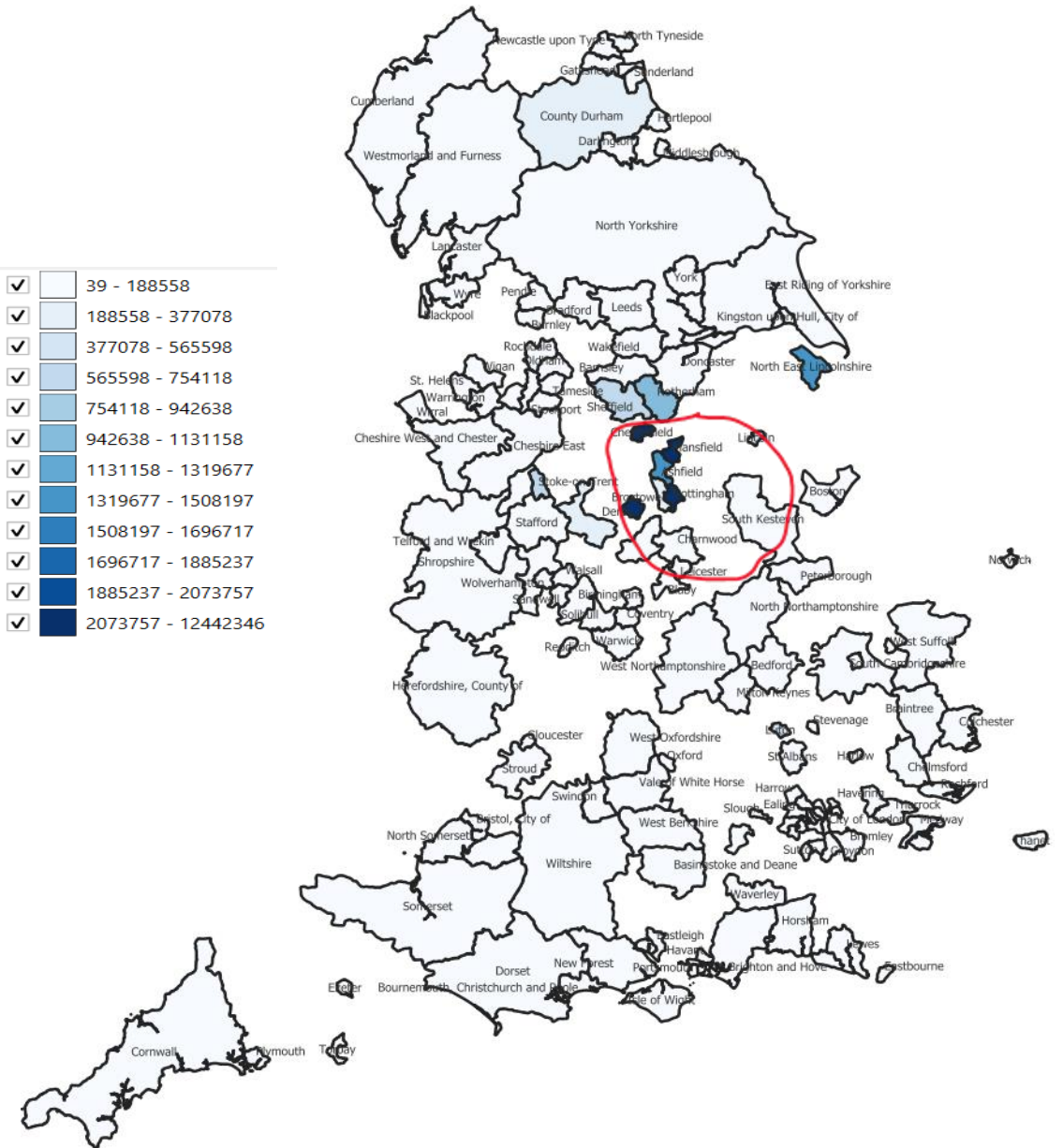
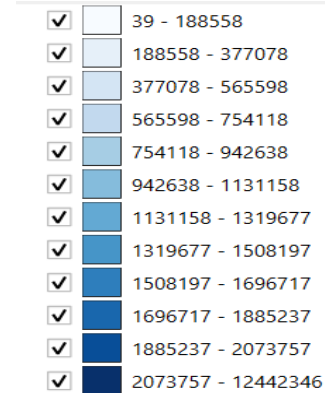


# 251 providers



**Eight** providers (including five GRANT funded EMCCA providers) deliver **65%** of all Education and Training learning aims in D2N2.

**129 (46%)** providers had less than **less than ten** enrolments (**Niche provision is needed**)



# AEB/ASF Strategic Skills Plan

January 2024

First draft completed

January 2024

Ongoing development EMCCA Skills Devo Working Group.

27 February 2024

Presented to meeting of shadow board.

22 April 2024

Endorsed by Leaders Group

17 June 2024

Readiness Conditions - Draft agreed by EMCCA Board

April 2024

Stakeholder engagement commenced

July to September 2024

Stakeholder engagement restarted

October to November 2024

Finalise and endorsed - Technical Officer Group (TOG)

November 2024

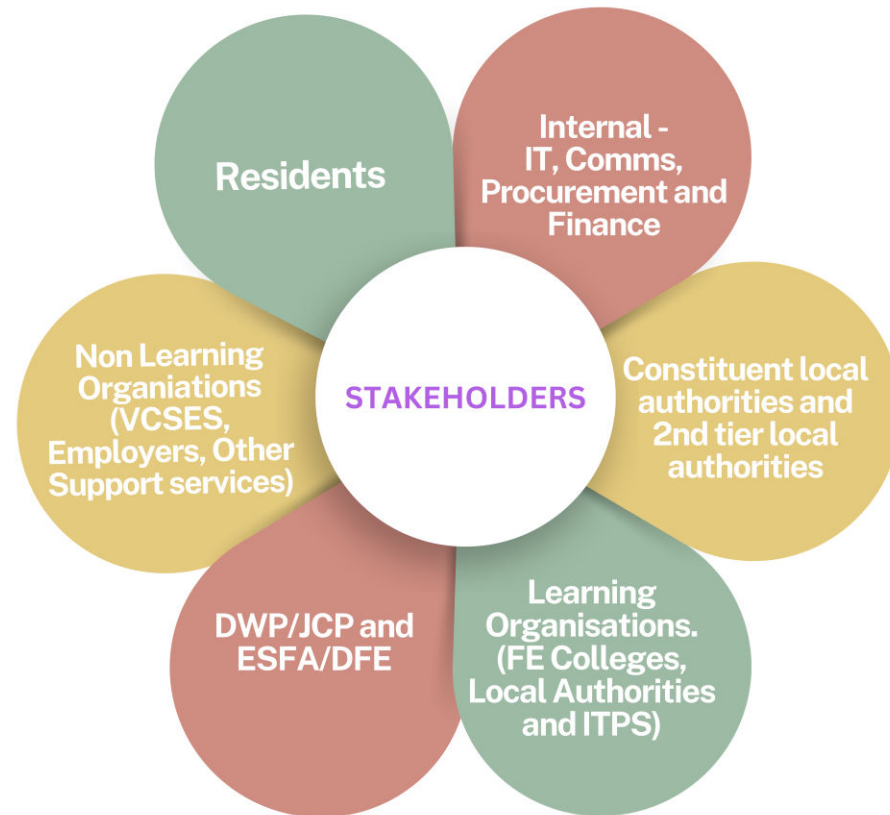
Endorsed Skills & Employment Committee

December 2024

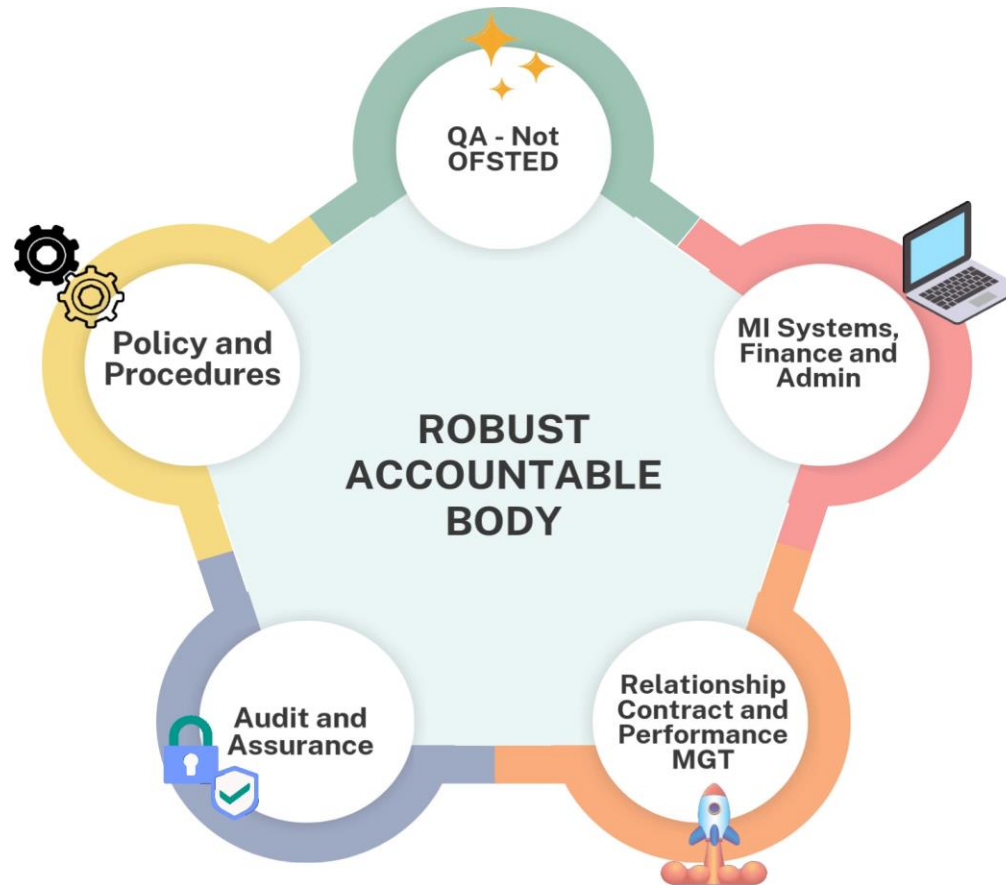
Final approval EMCCA board

**More stakeholder engagement in in the pipeline and changes planned well in advance.**

# Stakeholders



# Accountable Body



# Commissioning Principles

- Seek to align the Adult Skills Fund expenditure with communities of need, and /or that will see the greatest impact from investment.
- Place learner outcomes and impact (including securing good jobs/employment, in-work progression and progression to higher levels of learning) at the heart of commissioning.
- Ensure that commissioned ASF provision is aligned with provision available under other funding streams to form cohesive progression pathways for learners.
- Ensure contracting processes are transparent and fair, facilitating the involvement of the broadest range.
- Seek to utilise learning from our existing evidence base, together with ongoing analysis and consultation with stakeholders.
- Seek to develop deeper relationships with all types of learning organisations, to understand their offer and their potential to improve skills delivery and outcomes across EMCCA.
- Enable the trialling and development of innovative approaches to fund investment to meet local need.
- Focus provision across the region



# Routes to Commissioning

- **Route 1 - Grant Allocations**

- Transition year 25/26 academic year

- **Route 2 - Procurement:**

- Regulated learning including legal entitlements (upto and including Level 3 legal entitlements)
- No Tailored learning
- Reducing duplication and filling gaps in provision

- **Innovation/responsiveness:**

- This can be a combination of grant/procured
- Emerging needs/challenges

# Route 2 – Procurement – (No Lots)

Residents looking to reskill or upskill, which is **complimentary** or **additional, flexible and placed based** to any national/regional or locally funded activity and should include a minimum of the following activities:

- 19+, Legal entitlements, Maths & English, RQF. Regulated learning only to compliment grant funded provision.
- Unemployed, SWAPS - linking into Apprenticeships, Skills Bootcamps, and other EMCCA provision.
- In-work progression for the employed, self-employed, at risk of redundancy.
- Hard to reach population/demographics.
- Residents recently migrated to compliment grant funded provision.
- Align to EMCCA and Local Authority Strategies.
- Flexible, blended accessible delivery, weekend, evenings, hyperlocal Rural support.
- Link provision with Grant provision - progression pathways for EMCCA's residents and communities.
- the need to collaborate to support progression across the learning organisation network.

# Strategic Skills Plan (SSP)

EMCCA will use the ASF to;

- Focus on the needs of place, provision aligns with progression pathways addressing skills gaps.
- Support the growth of our regional economy.
- Deliver a more responsive and accessible adult skills offer.
- Utilise skills funding to promote social mobility.
- Develop relationships with learning organisations to develop provision.
- Ensure that our ASF provision works in tandem with other funding streams.
- Build on existing collaborative ways of working between all stakeholders.
- Evidencing the impact of ASF on outcomes.

# Adult Skills Fund priorities

- Match skills to economic need to increase productivity and wellbeing.
- Reduce inequality and promote social mobility to allow people to achieve their potential.
- Work in alignment with other public funding sources to offer coherent progression routes.

# Performance, relationships and development

## Pippa Proctor

Performance and Relationship Lead

# Performance

- EMCCA will implement a comprehensive Performance Management Structure designed to support effective delivery and continuous improvement.
- This structure will include scheduled review points throughout the funding year, complemented by planned face-to-face meetings with a dedicated relationship manager.
- During these review points, we will evaluate your performance against the terms of your contract and assess the impact you are achieving across the region.

# Relationships

- Each of our contracted learning organisations will be assigned a dedicated Relationship Manager who will provide ongoing support and collaboration.
- The Relationship Manager will focus on fostering effective partnerships across the region, strengthening our network of learning organisations and stakeholders. This collaborative approach aims to advance skills development for the benefit of both residents and employers.
- Onboarding for all learning organisations, and ongoing networking.

# Development

- During the first year of ASF Devolution, there will be minimal deviation from the Department for Education's (DfE) established framework.
- We will use this time to gather feedback from our partners and stakeholders, carefully assess and evaluate the impact, and begin developing policies and exploring options for greater flexibility in the future.
- This journey is a collaborative effort, built on partnership and joint working, to achieve success and deliver meaningful outcomes for the region.



# Procurement

## Vicky Lear

Senior Procurement Officer

# Procurement Overview



- Adult Skills training in the EMCCA region will be procured via a **Further Competition** under the **Crown Commercial Services (CCS)-RM6348-Adult Skills and Learning Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS)**
- The CCS Adult Skills **DPS is a list of pre-approved suppliers** who meet the basic requirements to deliver Adult Skills training.
- **Call-off contracts of between £100K and £1m** per year will be awarded to successful suppliers for delivery in the EMCCA region.
- Call of contracts will be for **1 year with the possibility of 2x12month extensions**
- The **total value of all awards** per year will be in the region of **£10m**



# Procurement - The DPS

- The RM6348 Adult Skills & Learning DPS is **free to join**.
- **Used by other Public Sector organisations** to procure Adult Skills training across the UK

To join the DPS Suppliers should:

- **Register as a supplier** on the CCS Supplier Registration System
- **Download and read the bid pack** from the Adult Skills and Learning DPS website
- Apply to **join the DPS** via completion of a questionnaire

# Procurement - Joining the DPS

Applicants to the CCS RM6348 DPS need to meet the following **minimum requirements**:

- **Cyber Essentials** basic certification
- Minimum insurance requirements:
  - **Employer's liability** insurance of **£5m**
  - **Public liability** insurance of **£5m**
  - **Professional indemnity** insurance of **£1m**
- Compliance with the **Supplier Code of Conduct and Modern Slavery Act**
- Pass a **Financial Viability and Risk Assessment (FVRA)**
- Provide a valid **UK Provider Reference Number (UKPRN)** from the **UK Register of Learning Providers**
- Agree to help contracted buyers to achieve their **social value objectives**

# Procurement - EMCCA Further Competition Eligibility

- To bid for the EMCCA requirement, **as of 9th March 2025** suppliers must:
  - **be awarded on the DPS**, and,
  - have **current access to the CCS E-Sourcing portal**

Suppliers will be further shortlisted for the EMCCA Further Competition using the following **DPS filters**

Filter	Requirement
Delivery Location	East Midlands>Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire
Contract Value	Annual individual contract values of up to and including £5m
Sector Subject Areas	Any subjects at Level 2 and below

# Procurement – Indicative dates

Step	Indicative Date
Successful award to RM6348 Adult Skills DPS and have a current CCS E-Sourcing account by	<b>9th March 2025</b>
EMCCA Further Competition Published to awarded and shortlisted DPS suppliers	<b>10th March 2025, midday</b>
Further Competition Closes for Bids	<b>8th April 2025, midday</b>
Contracts start from	<b>June 2025</b>

# Procurement - EMCCA further competition

- Bids will only be accepted via the **CCS E-Sourcing portal**
- Suppliers **will be required to submit a...**:
  - Capability Assessment
  - Quality Response
  - Delivery Plan
- Suppliers should ensure **sufficient time to submit** their response
- **No extensions** to the submission deadline
- **No late submissions**

# Procurement – More information

- **GOV.UK Supplier Registration System** – Register as a supplier with Gov.uk
- **RM6348 Adult Skills DPS** – More information about the Adult Skills DPS on the CCS website
- **DPS Bid Pack Download** - Direct link to download the DPS Bid Pack documents
- **Cyber Essentials - NCSC.GOV.UK** - Information about Cyber Essentials certification
- **Dun & Bradstreet** – Get a free DUNS number (required to join the DPS)
- **CCS E-Sourcing** – Sign up for a free CCS E-Sourcing Account
- **CCS Helpdesk** – For help and advice regarding the DPS or using E-Sourcing

Email [vicky.lear@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:vicky.lear@nottsc.gov.uk) with any questions.



# Marketing and Communications

## Shilpa Gokani

Communications Officer



# Logos and toolkits



# Our social media channels

- LinkedIn - @EastMidsCCA
- X (Formerly Twitter) - @EastMidsCCA
- YouTube - @EastMidsCCA
- Facebook - @EastMidsCCA
- Instagram - @eastmidscca



- EMCCA Careers Hub LinkedIn - @emcca-careers-hubs

# Partner obligations

- Please send any media enquiries to: [Communications@eastmidsdevo.org.uk](mailto:Communications@eastmidsdevo.org.uk) so we can support you with the enquiry
- To give East Midlands Combined County Authority advance notice of announcements to allow quotes to be arranged for any media releases.
- Use approved descriptions in media releases.
- Invite East Midlands Combined County Authority representatives to landmark events.
- Provide case studies, including appropriate images with consent, on request.
- Display the logo on the homepage of all partner websites.
- Display the logo on all relevant programme pages on the partner's website and in printed materials promoting funded Adult Education Budget programmes.

# Schedule of obligations

- Provide a dedicated section for the East Midlands Combined County Authority on appropriate funding pages of the partner website.
- Tag EMCCA in posts that highlight learner success on social channels, each operating month for the duration of the partnership.
- Engage with EMCCA on appropriate social media channels when discussing programmes and learner success funded through the Adult Education Budget.
- To attend all meetings as requested.

# Close

Please forward any questions or comments to  
**[vicky.lear@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:vicky.lear@nottscc.gov.uk)**