

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Nottingham,

on Monday 27 March 2006 at 2.00 pm

ATTENDANCES

Councillor Munir	Lord Mayor
✓ Councillor Akhtar	✓ Councillor G N Khan
✓ Councillor Aslam	✓ Councillor Klein
✓ Councillor Bloomfield	Councillor Lee
✓ Councillor Bull	✓ Councillor Liversidge
✓ Councillor Campbell	✓ Councillor Long
✓ Councillor Chapman	✓ Councillor Malcolm
✓ Councillor Charlesworth	✓ Councillor Markin
✓ Councillor A Clark	✓ Councillor Marshall
Councillor C A Clarke	✓ Councillor Mathews
Councillor B Clarke-Smith	✓ Councillor Mir
✓ Councillor Cobb	✓ Councillor Morris
✓ Councillor Collins	✓ Councillor Packer
✓ Councillor Cowan	✓ Councillor Palmer
✓ Councillor Cresswell	✓ Councillor Parbutt
✓ Councillor Culley	Councillor Price
✓ Councillor Dewinton	✓ Councillor Shaw
✓ Councillor Edwards	✓ Councillor J W E Smith
✓ Councillor Foster	✓ Councillor Spencer
✓ Councillor Gibson	✓ Councillor Stapleton
✓ Councillor Griggs	✓ Councillor Stephenson
✓ Councillor Grocock	✓ Councillor Sutton
✓ Councillor Hartshorne	✓ Councillor Taylor
Councillor Haymes	✓ Councillor Trimble
✓ Councillor Heppell	✓ Councillor Unczur
Councillor Ibrahim	✓ Councillor Urquhart
✓ Councillor James	✓ Councillor Wilson
✓ Councillor A Khan	✓ Councillor Wood

87 CHAIR OF THE MEETING

In the absence of the Lord Mayor, who was on other City Council business, the Chair was taken by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Wilson.

88 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

In respect of agenda item 7 – Children’s and Young People’s Plan, the following members declared interests:-

Councillor Klein declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as an employee of Nottingham City Primary Care Trust (PCT), which did not preclude her from speaking or voting on that item.

Councillor Urquhart declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as a City Council appointed member on the Connexions Board, which did not preclude her from speaking or voting on that item.

The following members all declared personal and non-prejudicial interests as City Council appointed School Governors at City Schools, which did not preclude them from speaking or voting on that item:-

Councillor Edwards	Councillor Aslam
Councillor Long	Councillor Malcolm
Councillor Stephenson	Councillor Campbell
Councillor Matthews	Councillor Packer
Councillor Palmer	Councillor Wilson
Councillor Clark	Councillor Cresswell
Councillor Heppell	Councillor Trimble
Councillor Gibson	Councillor Grocock

In respect of agenda item 8 – Youth Justice Plan, Councillor Urquhart declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as an employee of the Nottinghamshire Probation Service, which did not preclude her from speaking or voting on that item.

In respect of agenda item 9 – Local Transport Plan, the following members declared interests:-

Councillor Gibson declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as a City Council appointed director of Nottingham City Transport Limited, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting on that item.

Councillor Grocock declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as a City Council appointed director of Nottingham City Transport Limited, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting on that item.

Councillor Edwards declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as a City Council appointed member of Nottingham Development Enterprise Ltd, NET Development Board and director of Greater Nottingham Rapid Transit Limited, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting on that item.

Councillor Urquhart declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as a City Council appointed member of NET Development Board, which did not preclude her from speaking or voting on that item.

Councillor Parbutt declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as a City Council appointed member of Nottingham City Transport Limited, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting on that item.

Councillor Long declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as a City Council appointed member of NET Development Board, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting on that item.

89 PETITIONS AND QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Question

Green and Brown bins

The Deputy Lord Mayor asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Street Services, on behalf of Mr J Priestley:-

Why do the people living in Hempshill Vale estate, the majority of which are home owners, have both green and brown bins both of which are emptied twice monthly, yet the people living on Crabtree Farm Estate, the majority of whom are council tenants, have only green bins (due to the fact the brown bins supplied there have been

burned, discarded, filled with green waste and just generally abused) and get these green bins emptied once weekly?

And, why is there no allowance for people that have low maintenance gardens and therefore no brown bins?

Councillor Grocock replied as follows:-

Thank you, Deputy Lord Mayor.

At present approximately one third of Nottingham City residents are on the brown bin recycling scheme for the collection of garden waste, paper and cardboard. The Crabtree Farm estate is currently split between two different collection rounds, the Hoefield Road and Willow Hill side are on the Brown bin scheme and have alternative weekly collections for their green and brown bins. The Courtleet Way side of the estate are not on the scheme, and therefore receive a weekly collection of their green domestic waste bin.

Whilst it would be true to say that the participation of residents on Crabtree Farm estate does not match that of the residents of the Hempshill Vale estate, the overall recycling figure for this particular round is still very encouraging. However, we have taken measures to try to encourage participation in recycling schemes and emphasise the benefits of recycling to residents by forming partnership groups, such as the Schools Waste Action Club, the Global Action Plan Team, together with an active involvement with the local community centre.

The Schools Waste Action Team recently ran a curriculum based recycling programme at the local schools to introduce children to the ideas of recycling and the Global Action Plan, which involved local households in a scheme aimed at waste minimisation and energy conservation.

Deputy Lord Mayor, I am pleased to announce that later this year we will be extending the range of recycling products on our kerbside recyclable collections scheme to include cans, tins and plastics, in addition to paper and cardboard. This should reduce the amount of waste in green bins even further and therefore increase the amount of residents participating in recycling schemes, which in turn will increase the percentage of waste recycled within the City.

Thank you, Deputy Lord Mayor.

90 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2006 be confirmed and signed by the Deputy Lord Mayor.

91 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Chief Executive reported with regret the recent death on 20 March 2006 of former Councillor and Honorary Alderman Alfred Thomas Stone. He was elected to the City Council in May 1976, representing the Conservatives in the Robin Hood Ward. He remained on the Council until 1991.

Alfred Stone was Deputy Lord Mayor in 1988/89 and Sheriff of Nottingham in 1990/91 and was appointed Honorary Alderman of the City on 3 June 1991.

During his time as Councillor he served on a number of committees. including:-

- Transport Committee from 1976 to 1979;
- Land Committee from 1978 to 1983;
- Public Services Committee 1977 to 1981;
- Planning Committee 1979 to 1983;
- Appeals Committee 1983 to 1987;
- Employment and Economic Development Committee 1983 to 1990;
- Leisure Services Committee 1984 to 1988;
- Transportation Committee 1985 to 1987;
- Tourism Committee 1987 to 1990.

Alderman Stone leaves a wife, Mary, and two daughters and a son, Madeleine, Charlotte and Thomas.

His funeral was to take place at St Paul's Roman Catholic Church, Lenton Boulevard on Thursday 30th March at 11.00 am.

The Council stood in silence in tribute to his memory.

92 QUESTIONS

Rosslyn Park Primary School

Councillor Packer asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Education and Training:-

Would the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services inform Council of the impact he believes the new Rosslyn Park Primary School in Aspley will have over the coming years both educationally and as a resource for the entire community?

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:-

Thank you, Councillor Packer, for the question and, thank you, Deputy Lord Mayor.

It is important to put the school into context. If you go back 15 years in the Aspley estate, the only facilities were 5 schools in the middle of Minver Crescent and these were schools which weren't systematically open to the community. Aspley boasted one shop, which was a bed shop, not the sort of place that people would congregate in, it had two pubs on the fringe and a couple of libraries on the fringes of the estate. There were few community facilities.

If you take Bells Lane, it had no facilities other than a few low grade shops at the bottom of Nuthall Road. We are now seeing the development in Bells Lane and Aspley of two new community centres for the middle of both estates. It is a deliberate strategy on the part of the Council.

In Aspley, in the middle of Minver Crescent there is now a training centre, a community centre, a new sports hall which serves large numbers of people, a Children's Centre and soon to be a new primary school.

In Bells Lane there is a community centre, built courtesy of Jon Collins, who was Chair of the Community Committee at the time in the early 90s. There is also, about to be opened, a multi-use sports facility, a Children's Centre to be opened in June and now a new

school. Although the school has been occupied for only three weeks, the new building has already made a significant impact on pupils and parents. The Headteacher, Chris Turnerow, who I saw only this morning, reported to me that this had already had a marked effect on improving pupil behaviour, as they were respecting and caring for the new surroundings. It had increased parental involvement and there had been a decrease in vandalism. There had also been a marked increase in the desire to learn and to improve education in the area.

The building had been designed with flexible use in mind, whereby classrooms can be closed for privacy and quiet study, or opened up by means of sliding partitions for different types of activity. There are tea facilities, for which over time, we'll be able to free up with further development, additional rooms for the community or extended school use out of hours. The community suite along with a large or small hall will create a community facility linked closely to the adjacent community centre.

In short, the whole project has already made a huge difference to the area, as the once disused and abandoned playing field has been transformed into a focal point for the Bells Lane community. If anybody wants evidence of the benefits of long-term public investment and the coming to fruition of labour policies, because I don't think it would have happened without public investment and the public investment that both the Government and this Council have been willing to invest, then you need look no further than the Rosslyn School. You need look no further for the educational benefits which physical investment brings to a community. It really has been a catalyst for substantial change and I am looking forward to seeing a further development with the new Ambleside School on the Minver Crescent site next year.

Thank you, my Deputy Lord Mayor.

Lives Saved by Road Safety

Councillor Urquhart asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Street Services:-

Would the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Street Services please tell us how many lives have been saved by the work on road safety done by Nottingham City Council?

Councillor Grocock replied as follows:-

Thank you, Deputy Lord Mayor.

Can I thank Councillor Urquhart for this important question at this particular time of year. Deputy Lord Mayor, in recent years, Nottingham has been close to or beaten the Government's 2010 target to reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured by 50%, the number of adults by 40% and the number of people slightly injured by 10% compared with the 1994-98 averages. This equates to a total of 38 fewer children, 86 fewer adults who were seriously killed and injured, 310 fewer slight casualties. Nottingham is now setting itself tougher targets of a 70% reduction in the number of children killed or seriously injured and 60% reduction in the number of adults killed or seriously injured.

Deputy Lord Mayor, I would like to inform members of the Council that this Authority has recently received notification from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister that we have received beacon Council status for the work done here in Nottingham by the Road Safety and Transport Team of this Council. I would sincerely hope that all members of this Chamber today would join me in offering congratulations to that team for a job well done.

Thank you, Deputy Lord Mayor.

Performance Testing

Councillor Cobb asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Personnel, Equalities and Access:-

Does the Portfolio Holder for Personnel, Equalities and Access understand the deep demoralisation felt by Area Committee Co-

ordinators who have been forced to undergo performance testing as a condition of applying for the new area management posts?

Does she accept my concern that several Assistant Area Coordinators are so distressed at the way they have been treated that they have had to write to all Area Committee Chairmen?

Does she accept that there must be something seriously wrong if, after years of successful performance, six of the existing Area Coordinators have been told that they cannot apply for the new management posts and that now they will have to accept a lower paid post or none at all?

Councillor Campbell replied as follows:-

Thank you, my Deputy Lord Mayor and can I thank Councillor Cobb for her question.

The Strategic Leadership and Management Group (SLMG) project is a major change project for the Council. It is accepted that it has been a difficult and unsettling time for all those going through the process. The approach for this second phase of the project was agreed at the Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee (ACOS) in November and members will be aware that the SLMG project has been developed to address the weaknesses identified by the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) in 2002, and also the views put forward in the staff survey that demonstrated a need to improve managerial competencies and performance management within the organisation.

As with the first phase of the SLMG, it is imperative that the new posts at third tier level are filled by managers who have the necessary generic leadership and technical competencies to perform effectively in the new roles. This is essential if the City Council is to improve its performance.

All candidates who have gone through the process have been kept fully informed and briefed both on the purpose of the SLMG assessment process and what will be expected of those going through the process. The Council has been clear in its communications with these employees that these are new, larger roles, and they should not make the mistake of thinking that they are

applying for the old jobs. The new jobs reflect the new management arrangements and the roles and expectations for all SLMG managers.

It is accepted that having to go through this process is, for some, a very stressful process, and for those who did not get through, it may well be distressing and demoralising. The Council has committed to ensuring that any candidates who did not get through are treated sensitively and are given extensive support and assistance to find suitable alternative employment that takes into account their personal aspirations. The types of support being offered include careers counselling, life skills coaching and the Council's Counsel Line Services. Where unsuccessful candidates are successfully redeployed and when this is into a post at a lower grade than the one they currently occupy, they will enjoy grade protection for a period of two years. Currently, there are PO1 posts within the structure that are being considered as potential redeployment opportunities for those staff affected.

There is an agreed appeals process in place for candidates who wish to appeal against the outcome of the SLMG assessment process.

It is my understanding, Councillor Cobb, that all the candidates were thoroughly prepared and that support was given to candidates throughout the process.

Thank you.

93 ONE NOTTINGHAM – ONE PLAN: NOTTINGHAM'S COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL STRATEGY

The report of Councillor Collins (as set out on page 293 of the agenda) was submitted.

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Edwards:-

- (1) that the One Nottingham – One Plan: Nottingham's Community and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy be approved;**

- (2) that the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and One Nottingham Board, be given delegated authority to make minor in-year amendments to the Plan as and when necessary.

94 NOTTINGHAM CITY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2006-09

The report of Councillor Chapman (as set out on page 308 of the agenda) was submitted and its recommendations were moved by Councillor Chapman and seconded by Councillor Heppell.

MOVED by Councillor Cobb by way of amendment and seconded by Councillor Cowan:-

In recommendation 2.1 add after "21 March 2006"

"and subject to the amendment of the targets for secondary schools absences for 2006/07 and 2007/08 from 9.5% to 9.2% and from 9.2% to 9.0% respectively so that they are the same as in One Nottingham – One Plan: Nottingham's Community and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy."

After discussion the amendment was put to the vote and was not carried.

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Chapman, seconded by Councillor Heppell:-

- (1) that the Nottingham City Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009 be approved;
- (2) that the commitment to produce a summary version of the plan, which is accessible to all, particularly to children and young people, be noted.

95 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2006-2007

The report of Councillor Palmer (as set out on page 312 of the agenda) was submitted.

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Palmer, seconded by Councillor Collins:-

- (1) that the Youth Justice Plan be approved for submission to the Youth Justice Board subject to any amendments:-**
 - (a) resulting from consultation with partner agencies prior to submission to the Youth Justice Board on 30 April 2006;**
 - (b) required by the Youth Justice Board to achieve the rating of “Acceptable” by the end of May 2006;**
- (2) that any amendments to the Plan as a result of consultation or Youth Justice Board requirement be reported back to Council in June 2006.**

**96 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN FOR GREATER NOTTINGHAM
2006/07 TO 2010/11**

The report of Councillor Grocock (as set out on page 314 of the agenda) was submitted and its recommendations were moved by Councillor Grocock and seconded by Councillor Edwards.

MOVED by Councillor Cowan by way of amendment and seconded by Councillor Culley:-

In the recommendation add after “21 March 2006”

“and subject to:-

- (1) the local cost of NET Lines 2 and 3 not exceeding 25% of the additional concession cost of the network extension as determined at contract and financial close;**
- (2) that the local cost can be met without recourse to additional council tax or to a Workplace Parking Levy; and**
- (3) that a new full study of an alternative high quality bus option shall be undertaken and evaluated as an alternative to the proposed NET network extension.”**

After discussion the amendment was put to the vote and was not carried.

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Grocock, seconded by Councillor Edwards, that the Greater Nottingham Local Transport Plan covering the period from April 2006 to March 2011 be approved for submission to the Department for Transport by 31 March 2006.

The meeting concluded at 5.17 pm.