

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Nottingham,

on Monday 17 July 2006 at 2.00 pm

ATTENDANCES

✓ Councillor Wilson	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 Munir
✓ Councillor Cowan	✓ Councillor Packer
✓ Councillor Cresswell	✓ Councillor Palmer
✓ Councillor Culley	✓ Councillor Parbutt
✓ Councillor Dewinton	✓ Councillor Price
✓ Councillor Edwards	✓ Councillor Shaw
✓ Councillor Foster	✓ Councillor J W E Smith
✓ Councillor Gibson	✓ Councillor Spencer
✓ Councillor Griggs	✓ Councillor Stapleton
✓ Councillor Grocock	✓ Councillor Stephenson
✓ Councillor Hartshorne	✓ Councillor Sutton
✓ Councillor Haymes	✓ Councillor Taylor
✓ Councillor Heppell	✓ Councillor Trimble
✓ Councillor Ibrahim	✓ Councillor Unczur
✓ Councillor James	✓ Councillor Urquhart
✓ Councillor A Khan	✓ Councillor Wood

23 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

In respect of agenda item 7 – Youth Justice Plan 2006/07, the following member declared an interest:-

Councillor Urquhart declared a personal interest as an employee of the Nottinghamshire Probation Service, which did not preclude her from speaking or voting.

In respect of agenda item 8 – Statement of Gambling Policy, the following members declared interests:-

Councillor Wood declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a Council appointed Director of Nottingham Racecourse Limited, and left the Chamber prior to the item being discussed and voted upon.

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Wilson declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a Council appointed Director of Nottingham Racecourse Limited, and left the Chamber prior to the item being discussed and voted upon.

In respect of agenda items 10 and 11 – Motion in the name of Councillor Clarke-Smith and Motion in the name of Councillor Cowan on the extension of the Eastcroft Incinerator, the following members declared interests:-

Councillor Smith declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a Council appointed Director of Enviroenergy Limited, and left the Chamber prior to the items being discussed and voted upon.

Councillor Edwards declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a Council appointed Director of Enviroenergy Limited, and left the Chamber prior to the items being discussed and voted upon.

Councillor Liversidge declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a Council appointed Director of Enviroenergy Limited, and left the Chamber prior to the items being discussed and voted upon.

Councillor Grocock declared a personal interest as a Council appointed member of the Waste Recycling Group Liaison Committee, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

Councillor Mathews declared a personal interest as a Council appointed member of the Waste Recycling Group Liaison Committee, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

Notes:

Upon arrival at the meeting, (at the conclusion of agenda item 7), Councillor Clarke declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to agenda item 8, Statement on Gambling Policy as a Council appointed Director of Nottingham Racecourse Limited, and left the Chamber prior to the item being discussed and voted upon.

Upon arrival at the meeting, (during consideration of agenda item 9), Councillor Hartshorne declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to agenda items 10 and 11, extension of the Eastcroft Incinerator, as a Council appointed Director of Enviroenergy Limited, and left the Chamber prior to the items being discussed and voted upon.

Before the commencement of debate on agenda items 10 and 11 in relation to the extension of the Eastcroft Incinerator, Councillor Wood declared personal and prejudicial interests as a member of the Development Control Committee, and left the Chamber prior to the items being discussed and voted upon.

24 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2006, be confirmed and signed by the Lord Mayor.

25 QUESTIONS

Housing Repairs Improvement

Councillor Sutton asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Housing Services:-

When does the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Housing Services intend to provide members with the robust evidence that housing repairs are improving, which he promised them at the Council meeting on 26th June?

Councillor Trimble replied as follows:-

Thank you, Lord Mayor, and can I thank Councillor Sutton for his question.

Following Councillor Sutton's supplementary question on 26 June, I instructed the Head of Housing to inform Councillor Sutton of the robustness of housing repairs indicators. Unfortunately, the Head of Housing is abroad on holiday at the moment so I cannot ask him for an update on this work, but I will do so on his return. I hasten to add that this is not a criticism of the Head of Housing as he continues to produce excellent work. A good example of that is that the Department of Communities in Local Government announced that Housing Aid were the regional homelessness champions at the end of last week. As I stated on 26 June, I was informed that the auditors were happy with the monitoring process of those specific Best Value Performance Indicators involved. I am fully informed that changes to the processes were implemented on 5 June, on the way that completed repairs were measured. It is therefore anticipated that a new set of figures will be validated soon.

Nottingham City Homes are also committed to commissioning Housemark, a national recognised organisation, to undertake independent assessment of all performance indicators. Housemark's seal of approval is recognised as best practice by the Audit Commission and we see that as an important step.

Finally, Lord Mayor, Councillor Sutton is a newly appointed Council Director of Nottingham City Homes and I am sure that he will do his best to drive through performance improvements.

Urban Crime Report

Councillor Haymes asked the following question of the Chair of the Wollaton and Lenton Abbey Area 7 Committee:-

In view of its impact on the university and therefore also on Area 7, does the Chair of Area 7 Committee agree with the Vice Chancellor of Nottingham University that the report on Urban Crime prepared by Tory Think Tank "Reform", is a deeply flawed piece of academic research that seriously misrepresents crime in Nottingham and should be publicly withdrawn?

Councillor Culley replied as follows:-

Thank you, Lord Mayor.

I welcome Councillor Haymes' worries about flawed reports on crime in Nottingham and I hope she shares my concerns that most of them seem to be issued by the City Council. A somewhat hysterical press release on 23 May made clear that what was wrong about the Reform report was the figure for Nottingham's population used in producing the rankings. Getting Nottingham's population figure right seems to be quite challenging.

Later today we shall be looking at the draft Gambling Policy. On the first page it says that we had a mid 2003 population of 277,100, a figure said to have been obtained from the National Statistics Office. In fact the figure was more than 3,000 lower at 274,000. I understood Councillor Collins, as best I could, given that he was having something of a political fit at the time, his complaint against Reform was that they said that Nottingham was the most dangerous place in the country when it was only the fifth most dangerous place. Not many people got much comfort from that.

Councillor Collins claimed that Reform were wrong to say that there were 13 murders last year. There were he claims, only 9. Maybe, but that is still very serious, but in fact the lower number came about as a result of reassessment and statistical management.

I see the Police's own crime statistics every month. They show that in 2005 there were 13 murders, and that is what the police told Reform, but forensic and prosecution considerations changed some

of the murders into manslaughter. For me criminal killing is criminal killing no matter what Councillor Collins and his expensive Reputation Management Team prefer to call it. Where Reform was right was that Nottingham's levels of crime are amongst the highest in the country, the Home Office said so.

Does Councillor Haymes think the Home Office is a Tory conspiracy organisation? In 2004 and 2005, the latest date for which the Home Office has so far issued figures, we had per 1,000 population the highest level of domestic burglary, the second highest level of theft from cars, the sixth highest level for theft of cars.

Councillor Collins' own flawed 2005 Crime and Disorder Strategy itself said as much and I quote, "burglary and vehicle crime rates fell in 2003/04 but remained the highest in England and Wales per head of population." Councillor Collins' 2005 Crime and Disorder Strategy also said that criminal offences recorded in the City were around one for every fourth person in the City.

Using the standard British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes, the Home Office said that Nottingham had the highest overall recorded crime rate in the country. So however they got there, Reform, not Councillor Collins, was right. But there is good news. Reform have corrected their population figures, goodness knows how they got so many wrong, but they are now using Home Office population figures which includes 275,000 for Nottingham. And there is bad news. For the calendar year 2005, out of 55 large cities and towns, Nottingham is still top for burglary, top for vehicle crime, third for robbery and fourth for assault and, shamefully, top overall!

I am confident that in a few weeks the Home Office will confirm this broad picture when it publishes the crime statistics for 2005/06. In 2005/06 the Police missed almost all of their own Nottingham targets for reducing crime and detecting criminals. We need to face the facts. As the Government Office said, until we do, we cannot begin to tackle the problem effectively.

I have no idea what provoked Sir Colin Campbell's headline grabbing outburst. Maybe, he had been briefed by Councillor Collins and his City Reputation Management Team. If he was worried about a recent fall in the number of student applications, his own staff could have told him, as they told the Evening Post, that the drop is

mainly down to the perceived difficulty of getting into the institution and this year's introduction of top up fees. Not crime, or the fear of crime. Maybe Sir Colin Campbell is worried that last year his university had only 45,132 applicants from which to select 5,865 for admission. He should worry, it's even worse at Nottingham Trent University. They had only 29,263 applicants for 5,386 places. Sir Colin Campbell can however be reassured that both his campuses are in the best part and the second safest part of the City, after Clifton.

Imagine the horror if they were in Councillor Collins' own ward of St Anns which has nearly five times as much crime as Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey. However, sadly it is true that a majority of students are the victims of crime and like other people, more so here in Nottingham than anywhere else. Even so, Nottingham, like Britain as a whole, is basically safe but we have too much crime and a hopelessly weak anti-crime strategy.

I want Nottingham to be safer on the streets and in people's homes. Councillor Collins seems to want Nottingham to be safer in the headlines and on his publicity hoardings. He thinks pictures of Green's Mill on a summer's day will solve his problems. I believe the way to curb crime is to catch criminals and sentence them like criminals.

Recently one of our prisons spent hundreds of thousands of pounds to replace 40,000 keys because they feared the media had photographed a couple. Why did they bother? They should have thrown them away.

I want more Neighbourhood Wardens patrolling our streets, especially, but not only, in my own area of Wollaton and Lenton Abbey. Councillor Collins voted against more Neighbourhood Wardens, so the Labour Group voted against it as well. His priority was £300,000 for the modern equivalent of bread and circuses, daffodils and parties in their £7 million square.

Finally, Reform is not a Tory Think Tank. It has on its Advisory Board only three MPs, 1 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat and yes, one Labour. I should like to thank Councillor Haymes for her question. I don't mind answering it and she may ask me another. I

shall be here in September, October, November, December, February, March and April.

Thank you, Lord Mayor.

Key Stage 2 and 3 Results

Councillor James asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services:-

Would the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services care to comment on this year's Key Stage 2 and 3 results?

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:-

Thank you, Lord Mayor, and can I thank Councillor James for his question.

I am delighted to announce that schools in the City have recorded some of their best exam results yet, as indicated by provisional Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 Standard Assessment Tests, the SATS as we know them. The results were received this week.

In the City's schools there have been improvements in Key Stage 2 performance at level 4 in English, Science and Maths and level 5 in English and Maths. The level 4 figure is now 70.4% which is an increase of 4.4% on last year where the figure was 66%. The level 5 results are also showing a 3.6% improvement over last year.

The Maths level 4 figure show an increase of 4.1% improvement and so we are now up to 71.1% with the Maths level 5 figure at 3.5% improvement on last year.

Science level 4 is up 1.6%, far more modest but nevertheless from a higher base than the other two. The level 5 results however show a slight fall of 0.8% on last year but overall there has been a 4.4% improvement.

Now last year there was a slight drop and last year we provided packages for 33 primary or junior schools within the City, and that package has produced some extremely good results in some places, and we have separated out the effect of those 30 odd schools on the

overall improvement. The overall improvement is 4.4%, 3% of that is as a consequence of those 30 schools, where we concentrated our intensive support programme. Now what that illustrates to me is the impact that an educational authority and certainly Sandfield has had on education results in the City, and I am delighted that that has happened. We can actually see the genuine impact we have had on exam results.

When it comes to provisional Key Stage 3 results, a report on the City Council of Schools indicates that Maths and Science has seen an improvement over 5 percentage points in the number of pupils obtaining level 5 or above. The Council will for the first time reach Key Stage 3 targets for Maths of 65%. However, to date, only the Maths and Science results are available. ICT and English will not be available till August.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank, needless to say the children for all the hard work, the teachers for all the support they have given, the support staff in schools, and parents because increasingly we are involving parents and increasingly we are seeing the results of involving parents and governors, and particularly governors of Elliot Durham School. Finally I would like to pass on my gratitude to those advisors at Sandfield, who have played such an important part in improving the Key Stage 2 results.

Thank you, Lord Mayor.

26 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2005/06

The report of Councillor Wood (as set out on page 70 of the agenda) was submitted.

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Wood, seconded by Councillor Haymes, that the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2005/06 be accepted.

27 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2006/07

The report of Councillor Collins (as set out on page 72 of the agenda) was submitted.

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

- (1) that the amendments to the Youth Justice Plan be endorsed;**
- (2) that the summary of key points from the Youth Justice Plan attached to the report at Appendix 1 be noted.**

28 CHAIR OF THE MEETING

Prior to the consideration of the Statement of Gambling Policy (agenda item 8), the Lord Mayor left the chamber due to his earlier declaration of a personal and prejudicial interest.

In the absence of both the Lord Mayor and the Deputy Lord Mayor, Council RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Parbutt to the Chair for that item only.

29 STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

The report of Councillor Grocock (as set out on page 80 of the agenda) was submitted.

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

- (1) the estimated costs for operating the licensing regime be noted;**
- (2) the comments made in the report on the requirements for the production, consultation and publication of the Statement be noted;**
- (3) the release of the draft Statement for the purpose of consultation in accordance with the timetable attached as Appendix 1 to the report, and the methods of consultation outlined in the report be approved.**

30 APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE/HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

The report of Councillor Liversidge (which was circulated prior to the meeting but separately from the agenda), was submitted. Councillor Liversidge also reported that no objections to the proposals in the report had been received from Executive members.

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Liversidge, seconded by Councillor Collins, that the recommendations of the Appointments and Conditions of Service be accepted and the post of Chief Executive/ Head of Paid Service be offered to Michael Frater, on the terms and conditions approved by that Committee.

31 MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR CLARKE-SMITH – PLANNING APPLICATION 05/01520/PMFUL3 EXTENSION OF EASTCROFT INCINERATOR – PUBLIC INQUIRY

Moved by Councillor Clarke-Smith, seconded by Councillor Foster:-

That, it being in the public interest under s2(1)(c) of the Local Government Act 2000, arrangements be made for a public inquiry to be held

- (1) to receive evidence from the applicant, the local planning authority, and any interested person on planning application number 05/01520/PMFUL3 to extend the Eastcroft Incinerator, and
- (2) to consider, report and make recommendations thereon to the local planning authority;

and, pending such inquiry and report, determination of the application be deferred.

Moved by Councillor Clark by way of amendment and seconded by Councillor Collins that:-

Delete “for a public inquiry to be held”

Replace “evidence” with “representations”

In line 3 delete “the local planning authority”

Replace “such inquiry” with “receipt of such representations”

The amended motion to read:-

That, it being in the public interest under s2 (1) (c) of the Local Government Act 2000, arrangements be made:-

- (1) to receive representations from the applicant, and any interested person on planning application number 05/1520/PMFUL3 to extend the Eastcroft Incinerator, and
- (2) to consider, report and make recommendations thereon to the local planning authority;

and, pending receipt of such representations and report, determination of the application be deferred.

After discussion the amendment was put to the vote and was carried.

MOVED by Councillor Cowan by way of amendment and seconded by Councillor Clarke-Smith:-

In line two after “arrangements be made”, insert “for full Council”

The amended motion to read:-

That, it being in the public interest under s2 (1) (c) of the Local Government Act 2000, arrangements be made for full Council:-

- (1) to receive representations from the applicant, and any interested person on planning application number 05/1520/PMFUL3 to extend the Eastcroft Incinerator, and
- (2) to consider, report and make recommendations thereon to the local planning authority;

and, pending receipt of such representations and report, determination of the application be deferred.

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

After further discussion the substantive motion was put to the vote and the Council RESOLVED:-

that, it being in the public interest under s2 (1) (c) of the Local Government Act 2000, arrangements be made:-

- (1) to receive representations from the applicant, and any interested person on planning application number 05/1520/PMFUL3 to extend the Eastcroft Incinerator, and**
- (2) to consider, report and make recommendations thereon to the local planning authority;**

and, pending receipt of such representations and report, determination of the application be deferred.

**32 MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR COWAN–
PLANNING APPLICATION 05/01520/PMFUL3 EASTCROFT
INCINERATOR**

Moved by Councillor Cowan, seconded by Councillor Long:-

That the current planning application number 05/01520/PMFUL3 to extend the Eastcroft Incinerator be refused because the development would be detrimental to the environment and to the amenities of residents and communities affected by reason of pollution and substantial traffic generation and it is contrary to general planning and environmental policy that there should be an increase in the amount of waste transported and incinerated both local and from other counties rather than be disposed of through environmentally sustainable recycling methods.

Moved by Councilor Clark by way of amendment and seconded by Councillor Collins:-

In line two replace “refused” with “neither refused nor approved”

Delete all after “refused” and insert at the end:-

“until the Development Control Committee has had the opportunity to consider a comprehensive officer report on the application and the

results of local and wider consultation on which basis it should determine the application.”

The amended motion to read:-

That the current application 05/01520/PMFUL3 to extend the Eastcroft Incinerator be neither refused nor approved until the Development Control Committee has had opportunity to consider a comprehensive officer report on the application and the results of local and wider consultation on which basis it should determine the application.

After discussion the amendment was put to the vote and was carried.

After further discussion the substantive motion was put to the vote and the Council RESOLVED that the current application 05/01520/PMFUL3 to extend the Eastcroft Incinerator be neither refused nor approved until the Development Control Committee has had opportunity to consider a comprehensive officer report on the application and the results of local and wider consultation on which basis it should determine the application.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm