

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Nottingham,

on Monday 11 December 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

53 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

In respect of agenda item 5 – council questions 1 and 3 relating to Nottingham City Homes, Councillor Culley declared a personal interest as a Council appointed Director of Nottingham City Homes Limited, which did not preclude her from speaking on this item.

In respect of agenda item 6 – Nottingham City Council Statement on Gambling Policy, the following members declared personal and prejudicial interests as Council appointed Directors of Nottingham Racecourse Limited, and left the Chamber prior to the item being discussed and voted upon:-

- The Lord Mayor, Councillor Wilson;
- Councillor Wood;
- Councillor Clarke.

Note:

Upon arrival at the meeting, (at the conclusion of agenda item 5), Councillor Hartshorne declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to agenda item 6, Nottingham City Council 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.

54 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2006, be confirmed and signed by the Lord Mayor.

55 QUESTIONS

Basic Improvements – Nottingham City Homes (NCH)

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

Referring to the recent letter sent by the Chief Executive to all NCH tenants - can the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Adult Services explain what exactly are 'basic improvements'; what types of

improvement originally planned will not go ahead if only 'basic improvements' are made; and how much this will save?

Councillor Trimble replied as follows:-

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

Basic improvements are the Decent Homes Standard, it incorporates fitness for habitation, disrepair, modern facilities and thermal comfort. Modern facilities is a kitchen that is less than 20 years old and has adequate spacing layout. Bathrooms are deemed satisfactory if they are less than 30 years old and appropriately located. Also, there has to be a heating system which is programmable.

If we just do the Decent Homes, nothing that was originally planned will be dropped as the bid was for Decent Homes. So clearly, nothing is saved by basic improvements, as that is the Government's standard.

Building Schools for the Future (BSF)

Councillor Sutton asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People Services:-

Does the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services agree with the current MP for Nottingham South that the City has a poor record on its approach to sustainable design in its Building Schools for the Future programme, particularly in comparison with the County, where there are already schools which recycle all of their water and generate their own energy?

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:-

Thank you, Lord Mayor.

The logic of the question by Councillor Sutton is so perverse that it reminds me more of Lewis Carroll than Alan Simpson.

In the statement the Council is being accused of something that hasn't happened before it is supposed to happen and we are being

compared with the County which has been praised for doing something before it could possibly have done it.

To clarify, the BSF programme in Nottingham is not yet at the design stage, so we can't possibly be accused of having a track record of not having sustainable designs unless, of course, Alan is living in a time warp, to which the rest of us are not privy. I am sure that's not the case. Moreover, the County has not been awarded BSF so it can't possibly have a track record of sustainable design unless, of course, they are busying away implementing BSF without anybody knowing about it, which I know is not the case because I have asked them about it.

To pick up on this sort of Carrollian logic, not only have we not done what has not happened, we won't do it when it does happen. So will we, won't we, will we, won't we join the dance, well, we will be joining the dance, we fully intend to implement sustainable designs which go beyond Government standards and it will be a fully integrated part of the design, an additional use for educational training. Not only are we looking at design and energy sources, we are looking at sustainable transport and access.

Indeed I have an outline specification in my pocket which I am quite willing to show Councillor Sutton because he is very trustworthy despite some of his questions, but I cannot announce them while we are in the middle of a tender process.

Finally, on the matter of the MP for Nottingham South, we all know that he is an extremely circumspect and rational individual who would never rush to the media without checking his facts. Who would never come to rash and illogical conclusions on the basis of fallacious evidence as my colleague Councillor Trimble can testify. All you have to do is ask his parliamentary colleagues. So I can only conclude that the MP for Nottingham South has been misquoted.

As for the questioner himself, all I can say is that he should not believe everything he reads in the press or that MPs purportedly say. In this circumstance he's been sold a pup, or possibly a mad hatter, or possibly a mock turtle. So I think, as in Alice in Wonderland, (well actually it's Alan in Wonderland), all is not as it seems, indeed is quite the opposite.

Thank you, Lord Mayor.

Recent letter from Chief Executive - NCH

Councillor Stephenson asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:-

Referring to the recent letter sent by the Chief Executive to all NCH tenants - can the Leader increase the clarity of his statement by giving a categorical assurance that the options to demolish and/or sell off estates have been totally ruled out?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:-

Thank you, Lord Mayor.

I can give a categorical assurance that the Council has no intention and no need to propose the demolition or sale of estates to fund work to achieve the Decent Homes Standard.

Key Stage 2 Results

Councillor James asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People Services:-

Would the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services please inform Council of the recently announced Key Stage 2 results, and what he thinks this means for the future?

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:-

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

Key Stage 2 results have improved steadily in Nottingham for both English and Maths since 1998.

In 2006 we have made significant progress against national performance, leading to a 72 place leap to 38th position in the national League Tables for contextual value added, for everybody that knows what that is, and I am sure we all do.

In both English and Maths there was an overall gain of 4% with some schools making outstanding progress. For example, Brocklewood Junior School's results were above floor targets of 65% for the first time with a 26% gain in English and a 27% gain in Maths.

Scotholme Primary School results showed an outstanding improvement in English and Maths.

Overall, schools in the School Improvement Programmes have improved their attainment in both English and Maths between 14 and 17%, which just shows how effective that programme is and it wouldn't have happened without the support of this Council. It would not have happened by spontaneous combustion, without a lot of hard work from the department. These are significant gains for the targeted support by the local authority (LA) team in order to improve teaching and learning.

Many schools in the City have been very successful in the National Value Added tables. This means that schools have significantly strengthened pupils education between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Value added, just to explain what I didn't explain before, is a measurement of improvement and is calculated by comparing a pupil's performance against other pupils with the same or similar results of Key Stage 1.

Bluebell Hill Primary School has been commended for its value added and is an inner city school. St Ann's, is in the top 5% in the country for value added.

Nottingham is the second most improved authority in the country since 1998 and the second most improved since last year. So we are holding our position, for the first time. Also we have been lifted from the lower positions of the League Tables and we are there by dint of boundaries, as much as anything else. So we are actually working against the tide and doing exceptionally well in the circumstances.

On entry, pupils attain well below national expectations in communication, language and literacy. This is reflected in results of foundation stage profile, Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2. The LA

therefore works hard to redress this through carefully crafted professional development programmes for all schools. These are the early reading development projects, phonics, the raising achievement and writing project and through the intensive school improvement programmes.

We must celebrate our recent results while understanding what this means for pupils in the future. We should not be complacent. The LA will continue to focus on improving our most vulnerable schools through intensive programmes. We will focus particularly on English and particularly on improving writing. This means narrowing the gap between reading and writing ensuring that boys, in particular, and pupils for whom English is an additional language continue to make good progress.

We will also be putting a lot more effort into parenting because we know that the value that can be added through parental support is as much, if not more, than can be added through good teaching and therefore this will be one of our priorities. This is one of the ways we believe we will continue the progress and indeed get a step change. So we are beginning to make a difference. It's a combination of partnership between the Government, the schools, the pupils, the department and indeed councillors and I am talking about councillors of all parties. I am very grateful and I always finish with this, but I am very grateful for the support we have had from colleagues right across the political spectrum and it has undoubtedly helped because it hasn't stopped us taking our eye off the ball through the use of education as a political football. Had it turned into a political football I am convinced we wouldn't have made quite the progress we have.

Thank you, Lord Mayor.

56 CHAIR OF THE MEETING

Prior to the consideration of the Statement of Gambling Policy (agenda item 6), the Lord Mayor left the chamber due to his earlier declaration of a personal and prejudicial interest.

In the absence of the Lord Mayor, the Chair was taken by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Munir, for the remainder of the meeting.

57 NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

The report of Councillor Grocock (as set out on page 248 of the agenda) was submitted and its recommendations were moved by Councillor Grocock and seconded by Councillor Cresswell.

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

- (1) the feedback from the consultation process and from officers be noted;**
- (2) pursuant to section 166 of the Gambling Act 2005 and, with effect from the First Appointed Day that Part 8 of the Gambling Act 2005 comes into force, that no casino licences will be issued within the administrative area of the City of Nottingham;**
- (3) the Safeguarding Children Board for Nottingham City Council be designated as the appropriate body to advise on the protection of children from harm;**
- (4) the Statement of Gambling Policy be adopted and that authority be granted to the Corporate Director of City Development to comply with the relevant statutory requirements in respect of the advertisement and publication of the Statement;**
- (5) the power of the Authority to set fees levels and all other functions and powers under the Act which are not specifically reserved to Council, be delegated to the Licensing Committee.**

58 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

RESOLVED that the resignation of Councillor Cobb from the Health Scrutiny Standing Panel and the appointment of Councillor A Price as her replacement be noted.

The meeting closed at 2.35 pm

Council Question(s) requiring a written response

Eco Management Audit – Progress and Information for Members

Councillor Long asked the following question of the Deputy Leader:-

What progress has been made with the Eco Management Audit and how does he intend to involve and inform Members about the scheme?

The following response was circulated to all members on 21 December 2006:-

I would like to thank Councillor Long for his question.

Following Regeneration, Infrastructure and Sustainability Panel's recommendation No. 18 in the Climate Change Scrutiny Review that:-

- a) the Council adopt a corporate environmental management system in order to standardise and embed practice across all departments. This should be audited annually and reported to Members.
- b) Strategic Management Team (SMT) consider the feasibility of seeking ISO 14001 accreditation or a monitoring system leading to an equivalent standard of environmental monitoring to cover all areas of council business.

and the response that:-

'all Council departments should have a sufficiently consistent and systematic approach to environmental management within a three year timescale, to seek corporate accreditation to ISO14001, or whatever is appropriate at that time. For the current year, some basic measures are being put in place (office recycling etc.), to help meet the departmental targets and will be reported on in March 2007. A further report will be brought to SMT on the benefits, options and potential costs of a new system.'

A report recommending that the Council aim for Eco-Management Audit Scheme (EMAS) accreditation within a three year period went to SMT in September and was endorsed by full Council on 9th October 2006. The second recommendation in the SMT report was that a seminar be held with

representatives from all departments, along with key members, to determine the best approach to this project. This seminar is scheduled for Tuesday 30th January 2007 and a small number of representatives from EMAS accredited councils are being invited along, so that there is an opportunity hear about and compare the experiences of others, in deciding on the best approach for Nottingham, in particular:-

- what order Council departments should go through the process (City Development will go first in 2007/8) and what the resource implications will be for them;
- how the system can be set up and monitored so that it delivers environmental improvements without being too bureaucratic;
- how the system can help the Council achieve specific climate protection objectives in carbon reduction and adaptation.

The seminar has been timed to follow the second meeting of a new East Midlands Environmental Management System Network (for local authorities) on 23rd January, which is being convened by Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council (as part of a DEFRA funded project) and hosted by Leicester City Council, both of whom are EMAS accredited. This network aims to share and extend best practice and commitment.

Resources have been identified to provide a new post that will lead on EMAS and the recruitment process will begin in the New Year.

Departments which do not enter into the formal Environmental Management System straight away will still be expected to take some action to limit their environmental impacts from April 2007, as part of their ways of working, through the departmental planning and service planning process, e.g.:-

- to reduce energy consumption in buildings;
- to reduce the car mileage travelled by staff;
- to reduce the waste produced in Council buildings and increase the amount reused or recycled;

with support from the corporate Greener Nottingham working group and departmental Green Champions accordingly, in order to work towards targets (where data is available) and to help establish baselines (where it isn't).

Crime in Clifton North and South

Councillor Spencer asked the following question of the Chair of the Police Authority:-

Will the Chairman of the Police Authority please tell me the percentage increase for the period April to September this year compared with April to September 2005 in burglary in a dwelling, theft of motor vehicles, and theft from motor vehicles in Clifton North and Clifton South, and what actions the Police are taking to deal with this crime wave.

The following response was circulated to all members on 21 December 2006:-

I would like to thank the Councillor for his request for a written response and would reply as follows:-

The Chief Constable has provided me with the following data. The figures sought are available on the basis set out below:-

Crime April – Sept 2005 & 2006.

		2005/2006			2006/2007		
		Beats					
		FAIRHAM	GREEN LANE	RIVER GREEN	FAIRHAM	GREEN LANE	RIVER GREEN
28	BURGLARY DWELLING inc Attempts	27	38	27	48	93	56
37.2	VEHICLE TAKING AGGRAVATED	0	0	0	0	2	3
45	THEFT FROM VEHICLE	16	36	18	26	47	37
48	THEFT OR UNAUTHORISED TAKING OF VEHICLHE	9	11	14	15	19	18

Clifton Beats			
2005/2006	2006/2007	+/-	% change
92	197	105	114%
0	5	5	N/a
70	110	40	57%
34	52	18	53%

Data issued by Management Information (Corporate Development). Data extracted from CRMS and was correct on the 13.12.06

I am informed by the Chief Constable that the following actions are being or have been taken:-

Clifton is divided into three beats as above.

Clifton, including Silverdale and Wilford, is geographically isolated from the City separated by the River Trent, although part of city division.

Historically Clifton is a close-knit community. The most effective policing style has been in close partnership with others using locally based officers with local knowledge and community confidence interacting with the successive younger generations.

In response to the rise in incidents, the local area commander has initiated Operation Autotrader. Below is a summary of actions involving joint partnership working together with resource allocation through the Tasking and Coordination (T&C) process.

Short Term Action:-

- LAC resources enhanced in Clifton area by tasking of operational support staff when not committed on other work and moving resources from other areas of BCU to meet Clifton's peak in demand until midnight daily;
- Daily crime pattern analysis conducted by the intelligence unit and used to ensure the above officers are tasked effectively;
- Special Constabulary patrols within area;
- Neighbourhood Wardens to default to Clifton for the duration of the operation or until existing vacancies filled, providing high profile patrol and distribution of 'Crime Prevention' literature, community reassurance;

- Burglary team cover for Clifton enhanced by dedicating two staff from the south burglary team to work on Clifton burglaries;
- Schools liaison officer involved in tackling individual targets;
- Beat Manager Sergeant to engage with Youth Offending Teams and Sherwood project to encourage intervention with suspected volume crime offenders in Clifton;
- Immobilise and Smart Water property marking systems in targeted area; funding has been obtained from the CDP and Area 9 Community Safety Working group to provide 600 homes with 'Smart Water';
- Crime Prevention officer to provide crime prevention and target hardening products;
- Develop media campaign.

Medium Term:

- Introduce Neighbourhood Policing to the Clifton Area;
- Task Clifton Community Safety Working Group to identify resources and funding; funding has been identified, resources have been provided to hand out crime prevention leaflets at key time and locations;
- Multi Agency proactive approach toward tenancy agreements, use of ASB legislation.

Long term:-

- continuation of burglary project at Trent University
- Retro fitting of alarms, security locks etc to ALMO properties;
- Encourage growth of neighbourhood watch and neighbourhood

management.

Activity

(From 18 September 2006, to date.)

- Arrests for Dwelling House Burglary - 52
- Search Warrants executed - 7
- Fixed Penalty Notices issued -28
- Stop questions carried out - 419
- Stop Searches conducted 81
- Circulation files - 6
- Surveillance authority – 1
- Partnership working with Nottingham University use of 'Smart Water' room – 1 arrested, second operation in place
- Rust Proofs conducted 4 vehicles seized
- Road Traffic Accidents attended - 4
- Prison visits conducted - 1
- Immediate response incidents attended – 70

The interventions have had an impact as is demonstrated by the data set out below:-

Crime Oct – Nov 2005 and 2006

	2005/2006			2006/2007		
	Clifton Beats					
	FAIRHAM	GREEN LANE	RIVER GREEN	FAIRHAM	GREEN LANE	RIVER GREEN
BURGLARY DWELLING inc Attempts	14	24	8	13	25	27
VEHICLE TAKING AGGRAVATED	0	0	0	0	1	0
THEFT FROM VEHICLE	10	12	8	2	8	13
THEFT OR UNAUTHORISED TAKING Of vehicle	0	3	3	1	1	3

Clifton Beats			
2005/2006	2006/2007	+/-	% change
46	65	19	+41%
0	1	1	N/a
30	23	-7	-23%
6	5	-1	-17%

Data issued by Management Information (Corporate Development). Data extracted from CRMS and was correct on the 14.12.06

The above charts give the position for two months ending November 2006 compared to 2005. It can be seen that there has been significant reduction in vehicle related crime. The charts show that rate of increase in burglary has slowed and the un-validated data in December indicates 12 burglaries or attempts month to date (15.12.2006). This is a continuing improving trend but remains of concern to the force. The Clifton work is additionally overlaid by the forces burglary initiative, which is running between December and January. This involves force wide prevention, enforcement and intelligence gathering.

The force intends to continue to build on the partnership approach developing within the city.

I hope Councillor Spencer will be satisfied with this response. He may wish to contact Chief Inspector Satinder Sharma for further discussions.