

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Nottingham,

on Monday 8 September 2008 at 2.00 pm

ATTENDANCES

| ✓ Councillor G Khan | | Lord Mayor |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Councillor Ahmed | | Councillor A Khan |
| Councillor Akhtar | ✓ | Councillor Klein |
| ✓ Councillor Arnold | ✓ | Councillor Lee |
| ✓ Councillor Aslam | ✓ | Councillor Liversidge |
| ✓ Councillor Benson | ✓ | Councillor Long |
| ✓ Councillor Bryan | ✓ | Councillor MacLennan |
| ✓ Councillor Bull | ✓ | Councillor Malcolm |
| ✓ Councillor Campbell | ✓ | Councillor Marshall |
| ✓ Councillor Chapman | ✓ | Councillor Mellen |
| ✓ Councillor Clark | ✓ | Councillor Mir |
| ✓ Councillor Clarke-Smith | ✓ | Councillor Morley |
| ✓ Councillor Collins | ✓ | Councillor Munir |
| ✓ Councillor Cresswell | ✓ | Councillor Newton |
| ✓ Councillor Culley | ✓ | Councillor Oldham |
| ✓ Councillor Davie | ✓ | Councillor Packer |
| ✓ Councillor Dewinton | ✓ | Councillor Parbutt |
| ✓ Councillor Edwards | ✓ | Councillor Price |
| ✓ Councillor Foster | ✓ | Councillor Smith |
| ✓ Councillor Gibson | | Councillor Spencer |
| ✓ Councillor Griggs | ✓ | Councillor Sutton |
| ✓ Councillor Grocock | ✓ | Councillor Trimble |
| Councillor Hartshorne | ✓ | Councillor Unczur |
| ✓ Councillor Heppell | ✓ | Councillor Urquhart |
| ✓ Councillor Ibrahim | | Councillor Watson |
| ✓ Councillor James | | Councillor Wildgust |
| ✓ Councillor Johnson | ✓ | Councillor Williams |
| ✓ Councillor Jones | ✓ | Councillor Wood |

37 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Urquhart declared a personal interest in agenda item 6, SAFE for Nottingham (2004/05 – 2007/08) Review as an employee of the Probation Service, which did not preclude her from speaking or voting on this item.

In respect of agenda item 8, Motion in the name of Councillor K Bull, the following members declared interests:-

Councillor Foster declared a personal interest as a Council appointed Director of EnviroEnergy Limited and Nottingham Energy Partnership, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting on this item.

Councillor Liversidge declared a personal interest as a Council appointed Director of EnviroEnergy Limited, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting on this item.

38 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Public Petitions

Councillor Arnold submitted a petition to the Lord Mayor, on behalf of 39 residents of Greenwich Avenue who were requesting the closure of the public footpath between Bagnall Road/Greenwich Avenue and the Highbury Vale/Phoenix Park tram system as they believed that the high levels of anti-social behaviour, vandalism and crime that they suffered were a direct result of the public footpath and its use.

Councillor Jones submitted a petition to the Lord Mayor, on behalf of over 530 Nottingham residents who objected to the proposed Sainsbury's store on the Focus Do It All site. The residents considered that the area was well served with outlets and there had been a steady erosion of local facilities due to the spread of the four major retailers.

39 MINUTES

RESOLVED that, subject to amendments on page 96, the replacement of May 2004 with May 2000, and the inclusion of

tributes made by Councillors Culley and Long, the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2008, be confirmed and signed by the Lord Mayor.

40 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Chief Executive announced the following awards:

Ellis Guilford had earned national recognition by winning the National Literacy Trust Reading Connects School of the Year competition, winning £500 pounds for their school library in the process.

The achievement was made in conjunction with the Megaread project, which saw close working between officers from our libraries and teachers from the primary schools feeding into Ellis Guilford. Their hard work saw an astonishing 148% increase in children completing the scheme.

Sue Patterson, a Procurement Officer in catering scooped the award for top student of the year from the Royal Society of the Promotion of Health for achieving the highest marks nationally in the Advanced Diploma in Nutrition.

And also, Liz Dobson, Head of Catering and Facilities, won the Chairman's Award at the Local Authority Caterers Association Annual Awards for her tireless work for the association.

All those involved in the Megaread Project, and Sue and Liz, were congratulated on their efforts being recognised and they were thanked for their continuing hard work.

41 QUESTIONS

Executive Assistants

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

Will the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services please outline the activities undertaken, and the successes achieved, in this civic year of the Executive Assistants for Children's Services?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:-

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

I have had the privilege of being the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services since the start of the civic year. The annual Council meeting took place on 12 May so I have been Portfolio Holder for slightly under four months. This is not a long period of time in which to judge whether I have been successful or not as a lead member for Children's Services. However, it has been long enough to start to realise the breadth of the portfolio, how much there is to understand, to be responsible for, and on which to lead policy development. As the size of the job has begun to be revealed it is with gratitude that I can tell Council today of the support that I have had in covering the portfolio from my two Executive Assistants.

The Executive Assistant role was introduced in July last year and so we are only a third of the way through the first full civic year of having the assistant role. The two Executive Assistants for Children's Services attend all Executive Panel meetings which takes place weekly for two hours with an hour's pre-meeting. In this way assistants are kept up to date with policy developments across the Council, understand papers that will be going to the Executive Board and can participate in the discussions and policy developments of the executive.

In addition, my Executive Assistants meet with me on a regular basis. Since May we have met five times as a Children's Services member team to discuss my priorities as Portfolio Holder and how the two assistants might support these priorities. We discuss the current issues and development within Children's Services and the initiatives which the assistants are particularly involved in and to look at responses to concerns expressed to us by members of the community and others regarding areas pertinent to Children's Services. We have as a team met with the departmental management team to discuss the Children's and Young Persons' Plan and both assistants have attended other relevant meetings with officers.

Councillor Ibrahim has a particular role with regard to schools and during the previous civic year he visited all of the primary schools

involved in the Sneinton reorganisation to discuss the issues involved in reorganisation with head teachers and governors. It was much appreciated by schools to be able to discuss these sensitive issues with a Councillor who had direct access to the Portfolio Holder and it enabled my predecessor, Councillor Urquhart to be well informed of the reactions to the proposals from schools. I anticipate that Councillor Ibrahim will do that again during this civic year. However, already during this civic year, Councillor Ibrahim has attended a number of schools to present certificates to children who have completed a Race Awareness course. This has been a fitting end to an important series of lessons which have helped promote community cohesion and Councillor Ibrahim's presence at the award ceremony underlined the priority of this work in schools to the children and their parents. He has also met with those who run supplementary schools to discuss the challenges in the City and with those operating in the private sector who also contribute to learning in the City.

Councillor Ibrahim has attended a prize giving for year 11 pupils at Manning School for Girls and a ceremony to mark the completion of building work at Djanogly Academy.

Councillor Smith has concentrated on the delivery of Children's Services on an area basis and in particular, looked at developments within the Youth Service. He has visited a Children's Centre in Forest Fields where he invited local members to accompany him, a drama group run by the Youth Service and the new LIFT building in Arboretum Ward to see the Children's Centre and other facilities, taking local members for him for a discussion with officers.

Councillor Smith is soon to become a member of the Adoption Panel and has had an initial conversation with officers and completed reading in connection with this role. He has also attended a number of award ceremonies in the summer on my behalf. In particular, he attended the end of term presentations of certificates at the Nottingham Forest Study Centre, the Ice Stadium Study Centre, Hedges Gate and also the study centre at Nottingham Tennis Centre all of which provide valuable learning experiences for primary children, after school, to support their learning in literacy and numeracy and ICT. Once again, showing that these activities were valued by members of the Council added to the special nature of the occasion for the children and their

parents. It is also vital to support those delivering these valuable programmes. For me as a Portfolio Holder I would love to attend as many such events as possible but the number of events held within the remit of my portfolio makes this impossible and I am pleased that the role of the Executive Assistants makes the presence of members at such events possible.

Therefore, in conclusion, I believe that the role of an Executive Assistant is an important one and a vital one for me as a Portfolio Holder if I am to cover the breadth of the portfolio effectively. The successes in our City in Children's Services whether they be great GCSE's results, a new building programme launched, awards for the Youth Service or positive inspections for Children's homes, are ones for which many people are responsible but ones in which I believe we can all share, schools, partners, officers and members. I am pleased that my Executive Assistants can share in those successes.

Activities and Successes

Councillor Marshall asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Economic Development and Reputation:-

Will the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Economic Development and Reputation please outline the activities undertaken, and the successes achieved, by the Executive Assistant for Resources, Economic Development and Reputation in this civic year.

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:-

Thank you, Lord Mayor, and can I thank the Councillor for the opportunity to outline what Councillor Hassan Ahmed has been up to for the last few months. There are two ways you can use an assistant, one is generically substituting and the other is focused. I chose to use the focused approach and within probably three or four days of his appointment we brought out a work plan which he has been working through. So I shall go through the work plan and tell you how he has been doing. Unfortunately he is not here to bask in the glory but nevertheless I am sure he will be pleased with the answer.

First of all, Council Jobs for Local People, it has been a priority of this Council to give as many jobs allocated to local people who live within the boundary as possible. We have made some initial progress, the progress then flattened out. In addition we were always concerned that NCH wasn't included in the programme and nor indeed was NCT although they are two very valuable sources of jobs for people in Nottingham.

Councillor Ahmed has had meetings in order to get a more systematic approach towards Council Jobs for local People. I won't go into it because you will be bored out of your head. We have also now managed to get statistics from Nottingham City Homes and Nottingham City Transport about their particular jobs, the next stage, and I shall direct him towards putting pressure on those two organisations to use those statistics in order to increase the number of local jobs. Another source for Local Jobs for Local People is in large Council schemes and there have been discussions with Building Schools for the Future Team, the housing company and, to some degree, with Nottingham Regeneration Limited. We need to do a little more on that about including Local Jobs for Local People in some of their schemes.

In addition, the Skills Board has now started a general trawl throughout all the public sector to see the degree to which we can start tweaking public sector schemes for local employment. That again is due to joint pressure from myself and Councillor Hassan Ahmed and we act in tandem, in stereo at the meeting, much to the annoyance of many of the people there, but it is having some effect.

Promoting neighbourhood training centres with particular emphasis on basic skills - neighbourhood training centres are scattered over the City. They are erratic in the quality and the volume of their activity and it is unfair, for example, some areas of the City are extremely well served, like my own estate, Broxtowe or St Ann's whereas other areas of the City, because the centre is not as good, it is not as well served and it is not fair. So, we have asked him to look at the quality and ways of ensuring far better general provision across the board and he has visited two or three centres in order to get some idea of what the really good practice is in order to be able to spread it and we are working jointly on that.

Construction training was down on the list - not a lot of progress on that mainly because the Skills Board, I think, is beginning to get its act together, and there is no point in gilding lilies. I think at the moment it looks as though it is going to have to do quite a good job on that. However, collectively we have put a lot of pressure on making the connections in order to make construction a high priority and it hadn't been a high priority up to about a year ago and we are continuing to cope with that pressure.

When Hassan took over his responsibilities, Nectar, which was the co-operative for social enterprise had just been declared bankrupt, therefore we needed to recreate a social enterprise within the City in order to take on Council contracts. He has spent an enormous amount of time, with my support, on trying to get one of those reconstituted and that is making progress and we are also working out a list of potential Council contracts in which they can become involved.

Colleges provision - this is item 6 on his agenda. That was overtaken by the college amalgamation which I took responsibility for, so he took a back seat. However, now that we know what's happening with college provision and that there is not going to be an amalgamation of the two colleges, I think it is time to put pressure back on college provision in order to ensure that they don't step back too far from basic skills training and training within the localities as opposed to centralised training. They have got that message anyway through the consultation process and certainly Castle College has begun to respond.

Promoting training and making the connections element with the Nottingham Regeneration Ltd. Nottingham Regeneration Ltd has not given enough emphasis to that in the past and its emphasis has been on the development and not on the jobs created by the development or the jobs created after the development has happened and a tiny bit of progress has been made on that. It is now written into the Constitution and it's something we are going to have to crank up. Not enough progress on that to date but we will do that but that's Hassan's particular role on that Board. But we haven't stopped there, that was the initial list but lists are dynamic and things come in and out and what we have added in the last two or three weeks is using the Council's procurement system overall to increase local training and job opportunities and I have had some

discussions with the Corporate Director of Resources about starting that off, but at some point I will be pointing Hassan in that direction. I am sure they will be delighted to receive it.

Finally, the use of Section 106 for training and employment initiatives. Whenever we are dishing out 106s I don't think we are taking the opportunities there and I think we have missed opportunities in the past and that is an area which we can start concentrating on. No progress to date, only just come in on the list in the last three weeks and I think Hassan's not around to do anything about it but when he gets back, that is something that will be done. So, in short, I think there is quite a bit of progress being made. We know where we are going and I do have to say I am rather hurt, in fact, I am cut to the quick that your group is far more interested in Hassan Ahmed than it is in me. So, there you go!

Activities and Successes

Councillor Oldham asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Health:-

Will the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Health please outline the activities undertaken, and the successes achieved, by the Executive Assistant for Adult Services and Health in this civic year?

Councillor Liversidge replied as follows:-

Thank you, Lord Mayor, I thank Councillor Oldham for his interesting question.

I have been the Portfolio Holder for the same length of time as David Mellen and I would say the first success that Hylton has had was to take me through the portfolios because he has been on it since July of last year and he was highly valuable in enabling me to understand what the Portfolio was all about. He has been supportive in that role throughout the last four months when I have been trying to get my head around the actual role.

Last year, Councillor James was a member, and continues to be an active member, of Nottingham Elders' Forum. He provides a member involvement with that body and represents a key group in

our City. He also attends the Midlands Forum of the same body in my absence. I am asking him to lead on older persons issues in this area. He is a member of the Adult Services' Task Group on Self Directed Support which is the biggest issue that this Council is to undertake and he has been valuable both in that meeting and behind the scenes in that meeting.

I believe, in fact, I can announce now that I will be asking other people to get involved in Self Directed Support in terms of leadership in that role across the Council. However, that's an aside. He substitutes for me on many many meetings.

I was really surprised how many times I have been asked to go to day long meetings and hourly meetings. There was a day long meeting today which I had to leave half way through. Last week there was two day long meetings, and Hylton substituted for me on another two last week so he's doing that and he visits the council run homes and talks to people who have 100 year old birthday parties. I mean I was surprised that he did that. I didn't realise he was doing that but it was all part of the concord he had with my predecessor and I thank him for that. He attends the Executive Group every week and takes part fully in that process. He has also been the first point of contact for many different companies who seem to want to talk to me about services they wish to provide in the City.

Now, I don't actually believe that Councillors are the first port of call for these companies quite honestly. I think that they seem to be so desperate to talk to us whereas they should be talking to senior staff at the Adult Services. I have asked Hylton to front those meetings and to talk to the different groups of people who want to set up care homes, day centres and that type of thing in the City and there is a whole industry out there trying to do that.

Finally, and this is recently, I have allocated specific projects for him to lead which is intergenerational work group to look at joining up Adult Services and the Youth Service to encourage joined up thinking for the benefit of our City. I believe that there are going to be a few of those over the next year where we are going to have to pull together Adult Services and the rest of the Council.

Most of the issues for older people are actually not Adult Services and if you talk to members of the Older Persons Forum they will say the big issues, only 30% of people have Adult Services issues for being old, 70% of people have the same issues as everybody else. I have asked Hylton to chair the intergenerational work group and he has contributed to my success, if I've had any success, over the last four months and I look forward to continuing working with him, as now I feel I fully understand the process and I understand his role as well. Thank you.

GCSE Results

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

Could the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services comment on the progress in GCSE results since 1998?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:-

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

It gives me great pleasure to report to Council that following the provisional results received in August more young people are achieving higher level passes in their GCSEs in the City of Nottingham than ever before. Nottingham's provisional results show a 6% increase or 6 percentage point increase from 53% in 2007 itself a year of record increases and the highest ever number of children receiving five 'A*' to 'C' grades to this year's results of 59% of young people achieving five 'A*' to 'C' grades. This means that the City is once again improved by a far greater rate than the 2.4% increase in the national average for this year's results.

The majority of schools in the City have seen their best results since 2000 with several schools showing significant improvement in their pass rates compared to last year. Whilst it is difficult to particularly highlight one school in such a pleasing set of results I will particularly mention Big Wood School, Greenwood Dale School, the Nottingham Emmanuel School and Manning School for Girls for their significant improvements in children receiving five 'A' to 'C' grades according to provisional results this year. These results

across the City are more than double the results achieved in 1998 where only 26% of pupils received five 'A' to 'C' grades. That level was unacceptable and meant that our young people were underachieving. Many were unprepared for the world of work and the number of people going on to higher and further education was far too few.

Over the last decade we have seen continuous and sustained improvement in GCSE results in Nottingham and these results show that we have made considerable progress in addressing the aspirations and achievement of our young people. Whilst we are far from complacent there is still more to do. I am delighted that this year's results show well over 100% improvement over the lifespan of the City being an education authority.

Tributes should be paid to pupils, their teachers, headteachers, parents and governors for their hard work and dedication which has led to this year's very pleasing results. Credit should also be paid to officers of the Children's Services and previously the Education Department over the last ten years who have supported, encouraged and challenged schools leading to the position where we have no schools in special measures in the City and these excellent results.

Political leadership and prioritisation of resources from four schools from both the Labour City Council and the Labour Government have been key factors in this improvement. I am delighted to be able to comment on this terrific achievement to today's meeting of Council.

Cities Unlimited

Councillor Edwards asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Regeneration:-

Would the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Regeneration care to comment on the recent study 'Cities Unlimited' published by Policy Exchange and the implications should the study's recommendations become national policy? How do the recommendations of that report compare with the progress being made through partnership working between the core cities?

Councillor Clark replied as follows:-

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

This is the report that during August prompted the debate about “shutting down Liverpool”. But don’t underestimate these people, they have friends in high places.

Let me help members understand the context. Policy Exchange is an independent think tank whose mission is to develop and promote new policy ideas which will foster a free society based on strong communities, personal freedom, limited government, national self-confidence and an enterprise culture. To this end, the Chairman of the Board is Charles Moore.

This particular report is the third in a trilogy, and was preceded by “Cities limited” that concluded that attempts to regenerate cities have failed, based on an analysis of 18 chosen towns and cities in Britain, and by “Success and the City” that examined experience abroad and the lessons other countries can teach us. Hence, it was natural to produce a third report to put forward new policy proposals.

This it does not lack.

It argues that some cities in northern England are “beyond revival” and residents should move south to stop them becoming “trapped” in poorer areas. The report “calls on ministers to make it easier for those in struggling parts of the country to relocate to the capital, Oxford and Cambridge - the ‘economic powerhouses’ of the 21st century.

The Core Cities response, produced shortly after the document’s publication and supported by a number of other leading urban agencies rejected this model of economic development based on ‘mass migration and palliative care’.

The heads of the Core Cities Group, Northern Way, Centre for Cities, New Local Government Network and Centre for Local Economic Strategies instead called for a mature debate on the future of England’s towns and cities, focused on securing continued

economic success and structural change. They also argued for a more balanced view of cities outside the South East - many of which have achieved growth rates higher than the country as a whole in recent years.

Chris Murray, Director of the Core Cities Group (comprising Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield) said:-

“We recognise that London has driven prosperity across the south east, but the eight Core Cities’ City regions have a collective economy that is already bigger than London’s, at 25.5% of national output. Are Policy Exchange really suggesting that we can simply move that output to the South East intact? What is more likely is that such policies would empty cities of their 20% most qualified people, overheat the south east, create more deprivation and vast expense to the public purse. It’s not just that these cities are important to the economy, we simply do not have a viable economy without them”.

Chris Murray continued:-

“The headline conclusions of the report cannot be taken seriously, but there are some important questions raised by Policy Exchange. How can we empower our cities to perform better economically, what are the key drivers of growth in a shifting economic environment and how can we work together to create a different, ambitious vision for the future of our great cities? We would welcome a mature debate on these issues.”

Chris Murray concluded:-

“We are keenly aware that there is persistent deprivation in some of the cities mentioned in the report, but the ‘north-south divide story’ isn’t really an accurate description of England. In reality the economic divide is more within individual cities, between the ‘haves and have nots’, including areas of London and the south east, and this is what we should be working to tackle. Oxford and Cambridge are vital centres of learning, but we would be wise not to forget that many great learning institutions with international pedigree exist elsewhere in England.”

The “Cities Unlimited” report does not reflect the strong consensus forming between the Core Cities, the Regional Development Agencies, national Development Agencies (including the new Homes and Communities Agency), and the government about the role of our regional cities in unlocking the growth potential of much of the country outside the South East. This consensus was reflected in joint responses to the recent Sub National Review which emphasised a need for greater investment in the Core Cities as part of a more wide ranging regeneration across our country’s major City-regions.

Local Housing Company Pilot

Councillor Dewinton asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Regeneration:-

Does the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Regeneration envisage that Nottingham’s status as a Local Housing Company Pilot will enable the Council to provide new quality family housing in areas of the City (such as Mapperley Ward) where there is high demand?

Councillor Clark replied as follows:-

Thank you, Lord Mayor, and I thank Councillor Dewinton for her question.

Nottingham City Council has been announced as one of the first of four pilots nationally in delivering a Local Housing Company. I hate the term and I am actively pursuing certainly a localised name that doesn’t mislead in the way this title might.

The expectation for that support will be that Nottingham within its boundaries delivers an ambitious target of 5,000 new homes within the next ten years.

The Local Housing Company will be one of the toolkit of measures that Nottingham City Council will need to draw on to deliver on its ambition on transforming radically its most deprived neighbourhoods. Locally the aim is to use the Local Housing Company model to deliver on the Strategic Regeneration

Frameworks, Statutory Area Action Plans and Neighbourhood Plans.

Within the overall target of 5,000 new homes, it is anticipated that 50% will be homes for sale on the open market, 25% affordable homes managed by Nottingham City Homes and 25% shared equity affordable homes, with the Local Housing Company retaining the unsold equity in those homes.

A Local Housing Company is a public-private partnership model. The proposal is that the Council will bring its land to the partnership and the private sector will bring along its finance and development expertise in building homes. Nottingham City Council will use this definition to develop its own bespoke Local Housing Company. The Local Housing Company in Nottingham will be able to ensure that we manage the type of housing developments being built in our City on land that we own. The aim will be that we use the Local Housing Company to deliver the type of housing being identified through our Strategic Regeneration Frameworks. The Local Housing Company will also be able to ensure that management of housing stock built new for rent is delivered by our ALMO.

The key benefits for the whole of Nottingham, including Mapperley Ward as appropriate, will be that:-

First of all, ensuring Nottingham City Council can control how the housing developer market behaves. This will help us ensure quality and the right mix of the type of housing being built.

Secondly, providing financial resources to deliver on new housing being identified through the Strategic Regeneration Frameworks process.

Thirdly, raising Nottingham City Council's national profile as a ambitious city with key government departments.

Fourthly, bringing about mixed housing tenures within our neighbourhoods.

Fifthly, using the model to deliver on other neighbourhood issues being identified through the Strategic Regeneration Frameworks, such as provision of and management of community assets.

Sixthly and finally, co-ordinating how housing stock is managed across the City.

Team Reading Schemes

Councillor MacLennan asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Leisure and Culture:-

Would the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Leisure and Culture inform Council of the numbers attending the Team Reading schemes for children in libraries across Nottingham over the summer holidays?

Would he agree that the success of the schemes is another clear indication of the vital role the library service continues to play, in an ever changing world, in promoting education, enlightenment and enjoyment to the citizens of Nottingham?

Councillor Trimble replied as follows:-

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

The Team Read, Summer Reading Challenge is a school holidays scheme designed by libraries to keep children reading and help them overcome the learning and reading dip caused by the school summer holidays.

Each year there is a different theme which is designed to challenge young people to read six books in a fun and interactive way, including activities and computer use. As the school holidays have just finished, the data from all libraries is still being collected and analysed. Whilst we are awaiting the final confirmation, we are estimating that around 4,000, 4 to 11 year olds have taken part and read around 14,000 books.

Councillor MacLennan has obviously picked this up from his local library in the Meadows. I can confirm to him that the Meadows Library was very successful with 308 children taking part. Up 89% on 2007. There were 164 girls and 144 boys so the boys still have a little bit of catching up to do next year.

Out of the 308 that took part, 227 children completed the task of reading all six books. Seventy percent higher than last year. One thousand, four hundred and seventy seven books were read by the 308 children in the Meadows. That's 79% higher than last year.

A fantastic achievement by the staff at the Meadows Library and our early indications are that other libraries across the City are replicating those achievements.

So, as our schools' staff are looking forward to and enjoying their summer vacation, libraries are reaching out to children in this City, actively promoting new books and encouraging children to talk about books and giving them new ideas of reading to take up. So congratulations to all those staff involved.

Lord Mayor, libraries have been around in this country since 1850. Nearly 160 years and you don't achieve that longevity without evolving, changing and adapting with the times.

Libraries have changed with the ever changing education world. The enlightenment and enjoyment they provide, has evolved and altered as part of our ever increasing demands, expectations, policies and views have changed over the years.

I believe libraries are one of the best forms of true collectivism. They have brought books to many people in the past that couldn't afford books and they are bringing Information Technology to those that can't afford computers and IT.

In future they will have to compete with the successors of I Phones, Nintendo Wii's and Play station 5's, 6's and 7's. You can already get gadgets that you can store and read numerous books on.

The future of libraries will harness on the power of technology and distributing that on a collective basis to those that struggle to afford that technology. It will also rely on attracting, exciting and keeping its future customer base. Schemes like the Team Read, Summer Reading Challenge are critical to this and there has been recent good news on libraries throughout the City.

In June 2007, 960 people joined the City's library service. Exactly one year later in June 2008, 1,707 people joined our libraries. A 78% increase.

Lord Mayor, our libraries quite clearly promote education, enlightenment and enjoyment for the citizens of Nottingham.

Congestion Charging/Working Place Tax Levy

Councillor Price asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Area Working:-

Does the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Area Working agree with me that the work being carried out by the Association of Manchester Councils into congestion charging is very interesting, and does she regret that Nottingham City Council is no longer involved in any feasibility study into congestion charging?

Is she aware that the Association of Manchester Councils intend to put their proposals on congestion charging to a public referendum - and can she explain why the citizens of Nottingham will not have an opportunity to vote on the imposition of the Working Place Tax Levy?

Councillor Urquhart replied as follows:-

Thank you, Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Price for your question.

I am really pleased that you chose to ask this particular question on your first Council as leader of your group and congratulations on your new role. I really am pleased that you have asked this question because I think it's important that I am able to show that it's Labour in this City who have got the forward looking vision for transport that we need. I do agree Councillor Price that Manchester's work on congestion charging is interesting and I shall be watching its progress closely but, no, I do not regret that we are no longer taking that route. We did, yes, do some initial work with our neighbours in the region and that together with the extensive work over many years that we have done on Workplace Parking Levy made it even more clear to me that the levy is the right thing for Nottingham.

We know in the Labour Group that this City needs high quality public transport and we know that business agrees with us and we have a proven record in delivering improvements in public transport. We delivered Line One of the tram and we see our bus patronage increasing. We are clear that we need two more lines of the tram. We need an improved station and we need our bus link network to be maintained and improved. Workplace Parking Levy is a means of funding this, and now I am coming to the second part of your question, Councillor Price, being subject to the test of the ballot box. It was there in our manifesto in 2000, it was there again in 2003 and in 2007, once again Workplace Parking Levy was there clearly in our manifesto. This is not the case in the Manchester authorities, a number of those authorities had not had manifestos where congestion charging was a clear part of their manifestos and so their circumstance is very different and one can perhaps see why they feel that there is a need for a referendum on congestion charging for them.

Our manifesto in 2007 was widely available, both online and in print. A condensed version was available, in one of our, you may recall, many leaflets. I am sure Councillor Price will also recall the results of those three elections in 2000, 2003 and 2007. So the citizens of Nottingham have had three opportunities to make their views known in an electoral process. We also undertook consultation last year and, again, I am sure Councillor Price can't have missed that, given the extensive coverage of it in many forms of media, particularly through the Nottingham Evening Post, and, in that consultation, 68% of the City residents who responded supported the Workplace Parking Levy. So, yes, Manchester's work is interesting, but no, road user charging is not for us. Our system is simple, cheap to install and to enforce and it ensures that those who are elderly and who do not work, those who are unemployed or those who are simply coming to visit or shop in our City won't have to pay.

Manchester City and its surrounding authorities have very different circumstances and they have decided in their circumstance that they need to hold a referendum to demonstrate support or not. We have had three elections where Workplace Parking Levy was a clear manifesto pledge. I am content that people in this City have made their views clear and have made clear their support for our

bold steps on transport, for two more lines of the tram, better buses and an improved station through the implementation of a Workplace Parking Levy.

42 SAFE FOR NOTTINGHAM (2004/05 – 2007/08) REVIEW

The report of Councillor Collins (as set out on page 110 of the agenda) was submitted and its recommendation was moved by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Urquhart.

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Urquhart, that the outcome of the final SAFE Review for Nottingham (2004/05 – 2007/08) be noted.

43 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAM JOINT STRUCTURE PLAN – SAVED POLICIES

The report of Councillor Clark (as set out on page 119 of the agenda) was submitted and its recommendations were moved by Councillor Clark and seconded by Councillor Gibson.

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Clark, seconded by Councillor Gibson, that the schedule of policies detailed at Appendix 1 to the report be approved as the authorities recommended approach to saving the policies of the Joint Structure Plan.

44 MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR BULL – ONE OFF WINDFALL TAX ON ENERGY AND OIL COMPANIES

MOVED by Councillor Bull, seconded by Councillor Newton:-

This Council supports the call on the Government to levy a one-off windfall tax on the energy and oil companies with revenue from the tax ring-fenced to fund domestic energy efficiency schemes.

Moved by Councillor Klein, seconded by Councillor Maclennan:-

Insert after “revenue from the tax ring-fenced to” add

“address fuel poverty and”

Insert as final sentence

“Council also calls on the Government to outlaw the disadvantageous differential pricing of energy through pre-payment meters.”

The amended motion therefore reads:-

“This Council supports the call on the Government to levy a one-off windfall tax on the energy and oil companies with revenue from the tax ring-fenced to address fuel poverty and fund domestic energy efficiency schemes. Council also calls on the Government to outlaw the disadvantageous differential pricing of energy through pre-payment meters.”

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

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

The substantive motion be further amended to read as follows:-

“This Council supports the call on the Government to levy a one-off windfall tax on the energy and oil companies with revenue from this tax, along with the additional tax receipts the government has already received from the increase in energy prices, ring-fenced to address fuel poverty and fund domestic energy efficiency schemes. Council also calls on the Government to outlaw the disadvantageous differential pricing of energy through pre-payment meters.”

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

Moved by Councillor Foster, seconded by Councillor Sutton:-

Delete all from “to levy...” and replace with

“to require energy companies to

- a) invest £500m a year in home insulation schemes;
- b) roll out social tariffs to over 2 million households;

c) install smart meters which display consumption costs.”

Amended motion to read

This Council supports the call on the Government to require energy companies to

- a) invest £500m a year in home insulation schemes;
- b) roll out social tariffs to over 2 million households;
- c) install smart meters which display consumption costs.”

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 this Council supports the call on the Government to levy a one-off windfall tax on the energy and oil companies with revenue from the tax ring-fenced to address fuel poverty and fund domestic energy efficiency schemes. Council also calls on the Government to outlaw the disadvantageous differential pricing of energy through pre-payment meters.

The meeting closed at 7.03pm.

Council Questions requiring written responses

The following response was circulated to all members on 19 September 2008.

Councillor Spencer asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Health:-

Does the Portfolio holder agree that if Nottingham City Homes is to do well in its inspection, it should be better in meeting the diverse needs of its wide tenant base, with particular reference to providing aids and adaptations for residents who require bespoke equipment in the bathroom, kitchen etc due to disability, age or cultural requirements?

Councillor Liversidge replied as follows:

The City Council and Nottingham City Homes Ltd are working hard to ensure that the company delivers good services that meet the diverse needs of all its tenants and leaseholders. Amongst other things, this commitment has seen improvements in the quality of work done to estates, a reduction in the levels of void properties and considerably strengthened management and governance arrangements. One of the results of these improvements has been a customer satisfaction rating which has been independently assessed as having risen by some 10% since the last survey some 12 months ago.

Good quality services, endorsed by positive feedback from our customers are essential to a successful inspection. All City Councillors, officers and company employees must be supportive of at least a 2 star objective in November. The task is not straightforward and the inspection regime continues to be very demanding, but being able to draw down the additional Government supported borrowing, at this inspection or soon afterwards, is an important part of the overall investment plans for Council Housing in the City. I am certain that neither you nor your group would deliberately put that at risk and will be supportive and encouraging to those directly involved in the inspection.

The Decent Home's Standard already allows the diverse needs of tenants to be taken into account during the detailed secondary surveys done on each property prior to work commencing. The Housing department requested, sometime ago, that this should be done, particularly where the tenant's needs, through disability, required an adapted installation that was different from the standard. For instance, showers are now routinely fitted where it is clear that a bath would not be accessible, safely, by the tenant of a property being made decent.

The Decent Home's programme is important but it cannot meet the changing needs of our tenants throughout their lives. The Council has a statutory duty provide aids and adaptations for all qualifying residents regardless of their tenure type. Year on year demand is increasing by some 5% to 10%. This increase reflects national and regional trends related to an ageing population, increased poor health and obesity, improved infant survival rates and a greater capacity for independent living; the number of referrals to the City's Adult Services Housing and Health directorate's, Adaptations Agency has increased accordingly.

The Agency has spent a total of £7.5m on adaptations to Council properties in the last 3 years. The Agency has completed 3,397 adaptations during that time with almost a further 900 being added in this financial year. Two thirds of all adaptations are carried out by the specialist adaptations team employed by Nottingham City Homes Ltd. The team has a close working relationship with the Agency and consistently delivers high quality work. All customers are sent a satisfaction questionnaire by the Agency and satisfaction levels remain high. The results have been validated by data obtained independently by Nottingham City Homes and in 2007/08, 96.4% of all customers expressed satisfaction with the service they received.

Action is taken, wherever possible, to meet the eligible needs of the City's tenants and residents. Both the City and the Company are planning for a successful inspection in November and will continue with the ongoing commitment to improved performance. Councillor, if you are aware of any constituent, in the City, with eligible needs for which there is no planned action, then I shall be grateful for their details. The staff in Adult Services, Housing and Health will arrange for an assessment of those needs to be done as soon as is practicable and

Nottingham City Home's specialist team which has consistently demonstrated that it is capable of completing the necessary work to a very high standard, will be happy to do so again if you know of any case that requires immediate attention.

I hope that my answer is sufficient for your purposes but if you require any further information then please do not hesitate to ask.