

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Nottingham,

on Monday 8 December 2008 at 3.15 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

## **57 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest were made.

## **58 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

### **Public Petitions**

Councillor Collins submitted a petition to the Lord Mayor, on behalf of a group of 1353 residents in support of the reinstatement of post offices closed by Post Offices Limited in Carrington and New Lenton. Councillor Collins confirmed that the Council was committed to working with the campaign to continue to pressure Post Offices Limited and also explore whether there are other ways of delivering post office type services in both locations.

## **59 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 26 September 2008 and the ordinary meeting held on 13 October 2008 be confirmed and signed by the Lord Mayor.

## **60 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chief Executive announced the following awards:

### **Best Civic Newspaper/Magazine**

In October, the Nottingham Arrow won Best Civic Newspaper/Magazine at the Chartered Institute of Public Relations Local Government Group Excellence in Communications Awards 2008. The judges had been particularly impressed with its focus on local people and the different editions produced by the Arrow team relating to the councils nine area committees, as well as special editions designed to appeal to specific groups in the city, including businesses and students.

### **European Smokefree Supporter Prize**

Libby Lomas and Rachel Lewis, specialist stop smoking advisors had been awarded the European Smokefree Supporter prize for their attempts to stop people smoking. The judges of this international award rated them above competitors from ten other countries for criteria

including innovation, dedication and inspiration. They had both helped Nottingham companies create a smoke free workforce.

#### Decrease in Re-offending

Nottingham's Youth Offending Team, the partnership of the City Council, Police, Probation, Health and Connexions, had been recognised as among the top performing in the country. It was one of the top five in the country for achieving all four targets for cutting re-offending among children and young people in the past year.

#### Colin Buchanan Infrastructure Award

The Council, in partnership with Nottingham City Transport and Trent Barton buses, had won the Colin Buchanan Infrastructure Award at the UK Bus Awards for the Derby Road bus demonstration project. The project coordinated investment on one road to try and encourage people to use public transport using measures from introducing new buses and bus lanes to offering travellers personalised journey plans, electronic/real time information and better ticketing.

The City also won in the Integration category for Unilink, a fully accessible bus service network for students.

#### Brewing Business Partnership Award

The Museums and Galleries Service had won the Brewing Business Partnership Award, a national award for the various project collaborations with Castle Rock.

#### Local Government Chronicle Award – Public Private Partnership

The Council had been short listed for a Local Government Chronicle Award, in the category Public Private Partnership for the partnership project between Nottingham City Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club which had seen an improvement of facilities at Trent Bridge cricket ground to secure its future as an international cricket venue.

#### Quest Quality Management Award – Ken Martin Leisure Centre

The Ken Martin Leisure Centre had achieved the Quest quality management award with an outstanding score of 82%. This score was the second highest score achieved in the country, on the first attempt to achieve the Award, and followed its re-opening in January 2008 after extensive improvement works.

### National Land and Property Gazetteer Exemplar Award 2008

The Local Land and Property Gazetteer Team won the 2008 National Land and Property Gazetteer Exemplar Award for the best use of NLPG Data by a partner, awarded by the Improvement and Development Agency and Intelligent Addressing for the work they had undertaken.

### European Living Lab Status

The Regional and International Team had won European Living Lab Status, which was announced by the European Commission for the work undertaken, in conjunction with Accelerate Nottingham, on the project Connecting Nottingham to promote free public access to high speed broadband services.

### Bare Bones Project

The Bare Bones Project, a joint initiative with the County Council and Police to encourage the use of protective clothing to reduce casualties and injuries associated with young moped and motor scooter riders, had won two more national awards.

The Prince Michael of Kent Awards were the most recognised road safety award nationally, and Bare Bones took home the prize in the motorcycling category. That was the third Prince Michael Award the Council had won.

Highways magazine was a national publication for those working within Highways, and they had awarded Bare Bones an Award for the Most Innovative Road Safety Initiative.

All those involved in the awards were congratulated on behalf of the Council.

### Michael and Dot Gee - MBE

Council were also informed of the award of MBEs to Michael and Dot Gee of Riber Crescent, Basford. They were each made an MBE in the Queens birthday honours list for their work in the community. It was believed to be the first time a husband and wife had been honoured in that way.

The couple started their work in the community more than a decade ago, when parents on the estate complained there was little for their children to do. They immediately set about changing that, launching

play schemes that included games with bats and ball, skipping ropes and dancing. They had set up children's play schemes on their estate and helped to get a basketball court for youngsters. They had travelled up and down the country, handing out advice on how to set up tenants' and residents' groups.

Congratulations were given to the couple on their awards.

## **61 QUESTIONS**

### **Executive Meeting**

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

Thank you, Lord Mayor.

Does the Leader of the Council agree with me that an Executive Board that meets for less than five minutes shows contempt for the public, the political process and any pretence of open government?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:-

Thank you, Lord Mayor and no, I do not.

The Executive Board of 18 November was arranged and publicised in the normal way. Executive members were present and the meeting started promptly at 2 pm.

Although there is a standing invitation for the leaders of both opposition groups or their representatives to be present with speaking rights at the Board, neither attended. There were also no members of the public in attendance. Executive members had, as you would have expected, read the Board papers and had the opportunity to raise concerns with the appropriate Portfolio Holders and Chief Officers in advance. As a result, amendments were agreed to two of the committee reports.

In the circumstances, and because of their absence, without the need either to ensure reports were fully explained to members of the public or to respond to questions or comments from the opposition, the meeting did not need to take any longer. Indeed I

would suggest to unnecessary prolong the meeting, and in doing so, to waste the time of officers and members, when it could be better spent delivering services to the people of Nottingham would in itself show contempt for the public, the political process and indeed local and open government.

## **Meadows Gateway Development**

Councillor Price asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Regeneration.

Of the 1000 new jobs that have been reported for the Meadows Gateway development, that were a big factor in it's acceptance, how many are new jobs, how many are going to local people who live within a 3 mile radius of the site, and can you give details of their proposed training arrangements?

Councillor Clark replied as follows:-

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

The Meadows Gateway project was granted planning permission as it met the development aspirations of one of Nottingham's pre-determined regeneration zones. As such it was judged on its merits and on its proposed uses such as commercial, retail, residential, hotel etc and the relevant mix of these uses. The job creation figure was calculated from this mix of uses and the total proposed development of 700,000 sq ft. Tenants could be both existing companies relocating within the city and/or new companies coming to Nottingham. It is too early to give exact figures but what the development will enable the city to do is market itself better knowing that such a high quality space is available to new companies.

Nottingham City Council has been working with the developers to ensure maximum benefit to local residents in terms of both employment, skills and training opportunities. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Nottingham City Council and the developer to ensure a mutually beneficial approach. It is too early to give exact training details of potential end users and occupiers but work is already underway to ensure maximum local benefit throughout the construction phase.

## **Stay Warm for Winter**

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

Does the Portfolio Holder welcome the Nottingham Evening Post campaign, 'Stay Warm for Winter' and would he comment on Nottingham City Council's activities to support elderly and vulnerable residents over the winter months? Would he also call upon the local MPs for Nottingham to lay down an Early Day Motion on this particular issue?

Councillor Clark replied as follows:-

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

Anything that raises this issue is to be supported and Nottingham City Council is running the following initiatives to raise awareness:

First of all, the Nottingham Arrow magazine delivered to 115,000 homes in December 2008 included details of all home energy saving schemes and a voucher to collect a pack of free light bulbs from the Council House reception. Packs include details on energy saving schemes. Over 100 telephone calls have been received by Housing Services over the first few days since distribution of the Arrow began and many more are expected.

Knowledge of energy efficiency schemes in Nottingham has been developed over recent years with an independent survey in April 2008 showing 54.3% awareness. The December Arrow edition followed up a similar Nottingham Arrow article in September 2008 on energy saving and grants.

Secondly, the Department of Health 'Keep Warm, Keep Well' campaign has been promoted by the City Council to all community centres, libraries and support agencies. This has included the provision of application details for free leaflets and packs. For the first time this campaign included a special edition for households over 60 years of age, families and households with disabilities.

Thirdly, a survey to establish the baseline for Fuel Poverty National Indicator 187 started in November 2008 and is ongoing in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust. Over 2,500 households on benefits are currently being randomly surveyed. Insulation and heating works will be offered, where relevant, based upon these surveys.

Fourthly, Warm Zone started in November 2008 with its door to door survey campaign of private sector homes. This programme runs for 3 years with £680,000 of funding from the Regional Housing Board.

Fifthly, social tariffs on gas and electricity introduced in the energy saving package statement from Gordon Brown on 11 September 2008 are being widely promoted through citywide displays and partners.

Sixthly, some 940 owner occupiers and private renters over 70 years of age, regardless of benefits/allowances, have directly applied to the City Council for free loft and cavity wall insulation up to 5 December 2008. This was promoted through September 2008 Arrow to 115,000 homes and again in December 2008. Every opportunity has been taken to promote this new scheme introduced in April 2008.

Seventhly, cavity wall insulation, solid wall insulation and loft insulation campaigns have targeted every owner occupier over recent years. That campaign continues to raise awareness of construction type.

Eighthly, private landlords are an area where greatest progress is still possible. In the summer 2008 over 800 landlords were written to by Housing Services with full details of grants, the need for Energy Performance Certificates and Landlord Energy Saving Allowances. Partnerships are ongoing with East Midlands Property Owners to raise awareness of private landlords.

Ninthly, Nottingham City Homes has agreed to target financial resources at heating systems of homes that fail to meet 35 SAP energy rating. They propose that offers of heating works will be achieved by 31 March 2009. 35 SAP is the criterion for fuel poverty under National Indicator 187.



Tenth and finally, the City Council is working with the Energy Saving Trust regional office that opened in Nottingham in November 2008. Its primary interest is private sector residential housing including solid wall insulation, loft insulation and cavity wall insulation. This office replaces that previously operated from Buxton to serve this area.

Regarding the suggestion of an Early Day Motion, Local MPs continue to show interest in this particular issue. Prime Minister, Gordon Brown's Energy Saving Package statement of 11 September 2008 was much welcomed and showed his personal support.

## **Policing and Crime Bill**

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

Would the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety like to comment on the announcement that a Policing and Crime Bill, forming part of the Government's draft legislation programme, will include measures to prevent low level crime and disorder as well as the tightening of regulations on lap dancing clubs and the sale of alcohol?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:-

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

Although the details of the Bill have not yet been published, I am happy to comment on the measures that are likely to be included. I welcome the proposals to tighten the licensing regulations on lap dancing and indeed the Council wrote to Gerry Sutcliffe MP and lobbied him in July of this year to suggest this was necessary. We believe local residents want the Council to have a greater say over the way these establishments are run and the activities that take place within them and we look forward to the Bill delivering just that.

As for changes in the way alcohol is sold and marketed, I welcome the intention to legislate on misuse and hope new powers will help

deal effectively with bulk sales of cheap, strong alcohols from supermarkets and cheap drinks promotions in pubs and clubs where this encourages irresponsible drinking.

I am particularly concerned about the off licence sale of high alcohol content white cider, the preferred drink of many alcoholics and will continue to lobby government to ensure that as an authority the powers we have are sufficient to limit its supply.

In relation to the inclusion of measures to prevent low level crime and disorder, the development of the Policing Pledge is particularly welcomed. This builds on the positive work in the City to build effective neighbourhood policing and to integrate this with our developing neighbourhood management arrangements.

It will also help the police and partners respond more effectively to local needs by ensuring residents are regularly consulted and engaged in identifying the needs and priorities of their own communities.

Finally however, while there is much to be welcomed in what we understand will be included within the Bill, it may, however, also suggest that in future the Chair of the Crime and Drugs Partnership and the majority of members of the Police Authority should be directly elected. Whilst superficially this may have some attraction, the current arrangements across the country have delivered significant reductions in crime nationally over the last decade and in Nottingham a reduction of almost a third in the number of offences since 2003. In the circumstances and given the concerns raised about this by local government, the police and partners involved in the criminal justice system, its difficult to understand the problem these proposals are intended to fix.

Overall however the proposed Bill contains much to be welcomed, appears to respond to concerns raised with ministers by this authority, and therefore I support the steps to introduce new powers to protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

## Old Market Square Scheme

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

Could the Leader please inform Council of (a) the original estimate for the cost of the Old Market Square scheme, (b) the current final projected cost, and (c) how this cost is now being funded?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:-

Lord Mayor, I thank Councillor Long for his question.

The original estimate for the Old Market Square reported to the Executive Board in January 2005 was £7.173 million. There have been subsequent updates reported to the Executive Board through the normal financial monitoring processes:-

- Executive Board November 2006, revised projections of expenditure and resources to £7.969 million;
- Executive Board February 2007, the latest estimated was reported as £7.673 million following around £296,000 being allocated from corporate contingencies;
- Executive Board November 2007, the reported cost was £8.623 million, it was noted that contractor's claims had been received and the budget for the scheme was increased to reflect this.

At the Executive Board September 2008, the reported final cost of the Old Market Square was £8.870 million; this expenditure projection included an additional £247,000 largely due to the loss of anticipated Section 106 funding.

Overall the increased cost of £1.697 million is being met from the following:

- an additional grant from the East Midlands Development Agency £300,000;
- Section 106 funding of £84,000;
- LABGI funding of £355,000; and

- £958,000 from Cultural Services vat refund.

For information the total external funding for the project was:

- East Midlands Development Agency Grant of £1.491 million;
- European Regional Development Fund European Grant of £2.309 million;
- Local Transport Plan funding of £1 million;
- Turning Point Local Transport Plan funding of £500,000;
- Section 106 of £2.257 million;
- Local Authority Business Growth Incentive scheme funding of £355,000;
- Cultural Services VAT refund of £958,000 leads to the overall total.

In this, as in other capital projects it is disappointing and a matter for concern when costs significantly exceed estimates and I therefore welcome steps being taken to review project management arrangements within the authority.

Nevertheless, and despite the opposition of Liberal Democrat and Conservative councillors, the redesigned Old Market Square has been popular and has been contributing to the continuing success of the City.

Furthermore, while we have occasionally faced cost overruns on a minority of major capital projects, the vast majority of the schemes that make up the Council's Capital Programme have been delivered on time and to budget.

## **62 PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE CITY CENTRE AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The report of Councillor Collins (as set out on page 203 of the agenda) was submitted and its recommendations was moved by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Urquhart.

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

- (1) the changes to the City Centre Area Committee Terms of Reference detailed within the Appendix to the report be approved;**
- (2) the anticipated in year changes to the Area Committees membership be agreed under delegated authority and reported separately.**

### **63 COVENANT OF MAYORS**

The report of Councillor Bull (as set out on page 211 of the agenda) was submitted and its recommendations were moved by Councillor Bull and seconded by Councillor Williams.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Bull, seconded by Councillor Williams, that the City Council supports the signing of the Covenant of Mayors.**

### **64 MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR BULL – FORTHCOMING IMPACT OF PEAK OIL**

MOVED by Councillor Bull, seconded by Councillor Chapman:-

This Council acknowledges the forthcoming impact of peak oil. The Council therefore needs to respond, and help the citizens it serves respond, to the likelihood of shrinking oil supply but in a way which will nevertheless maintains the City's prosperity. It acknowledges that actions taken to adapt to and mitigate against climate change also help us adapt issues around peak oil.

It will do this by:

- developing an understanding of the impact of peak oil on the local economy and the local community
- encouraging a move across the city towards sustainable transport, cycling and walking throughout the city
- pursuing a rigorous energy efficiency and conservation programme through its carbon management plan, the work towards EMAS accreditation and on leading on raising energy awareness across all sectors to reduce dependency on oil based energy in the city

- supporting research and production within the city which helps develop local effective alternative energy supplies and energy saving products in order to encourage a move away from oil based fuels and also in order to create local 'green collar jobs'
- co-ordinating policy and action on reducing our city's carbon dependency and in response to the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change and peak oil.

In this way Nottingham City Council will not only be helping the city to rise to the challenge of peak oil but also encourage the city to grasp the opportunities which peak oil offers.

**After discussion the motion was put to the vote and was carried and the Council RESOLVED that this Council acknowledges the forthcoming impact of peak oil. The Council therefore needs to respond, and help the citizens it serves respond, to the likelihood of shrinking oil supply but in a way which will nevertheless maintains the City's prosperity. It acknowledges that actions taken to adapt to and mitigate against climate change also help us adapt issues around peak oil.**

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- **developing an understanding of the impact of peak oil on the local economy and the local community**
- **encouraging a move across the city towards sustainable transport, cycling and walking throughout the city**
- **pursuing a rigorous energy efficiency and conservation programme through its carbon management plan, the work towards EMAS accreditation and on leading on raising energy awareness across all sectors to reduce dependency on oil based energy in the city**
- **supporting research and production within the city which helps develop local effective alternative energy supplies and energy saving products in order to encourage a move away from oil based fuels and also in order to create local 'green collar jobs'**
- **co-ordinating policy and action on reducing our city's carbon dependency and in response to the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change and peak oil.**

**In this way Nottingham City Council will not only be helping the city to rise to the challenge of peak oil but also encourage the city to grasp the opportunities which peak oil offers.**

**The meeting closed at 5.20pm.**

**Council Question requiring a written response**

The following responses were circulated to all members on 16 December 2008.

**Slanty N Logo**

Councillor Spencer asked the following question of the Leader:-

Does the Leader of the Council regret spending over £100,000 of public money on the consultants who advised him to adopt the 'slanty N' logo for Nottingham?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:

In response to your question regarding whether the Council regrets spending over £100K of public money on the consultants who advised me to adopt the 'slanty N' logo for Nottingham, since neither I nor Nottingham City Council paid the consultants who devised and suggested the adoption of the 'N', it is impossible to give an accurate answer to the question.

Please see the information below prepared by Marketing and Communications Officers which does give some background to your question.

The "N" as the new destination logo was devised, developed and funded from within its business plan by Experience Nottinghamshire shortly after they became the new destination marketing organisation for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

The idea was to give the city and the county a branding to be used by private sector organisations as well as the city, county and district councils across Nottinghamshire. Marketing initiatives of this kind can always provoke strong reactions, either positive or negative and the "N" was no different when it was launched.

In the three and a half years since it was launched the brand has featured on letter heads, posters, and marketing materials and,



according to Experience Nottinghamshire, is in use by more than 100 businesses as well as public sector organisations.

However, recent views have revealed strong feelings for more use to be made of the Robin Hood legend as a symbol for Nottingham. The city council currently believes that the world-wide image of Robin Hood is now the best way to achieve recognition for Nottingham.

This view was echoed by the Nottingham Evening Post who said in a recent editorial; "Like the city council, we think that the instant global recognition associated with Robin Hood could and should be harnessed for the benefit of the city".

There are also exciting opportunities for promoting our city around the Robin Hood theme with the new Hollywood Blockbuster "Nottingham" due to start filming early in the New Year as well as ambitious plans from the County Council for a new visitor centre at Sherwood Forest.

Alongside this, the City Council is looking to further develop our Robin Hood presence in the City including revamping the annual Robin Hood Pageant for the benefit of local people and visitors alike.

### **Nottingham City Homes Allocation Process**

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

Is the portfolio holder satisfied that Nottingham City Homes current allocation process gives sufficient weight to those who are disabled or have a long term illness?

Would he kindly outline what support arrangements are available to these people?

Councillor Liversidge replied as follows:

In circumstances where someone has a disability or has a long term illness and their mobility within their home and/or access to it is limited because of the disability/illness, an assessment will be made to consider them for urgent re-housing within band 2.

When urgent need priority is awarded applicants will be given one to one advice and support to bid for suitable properties.

In the cases of applicants who have been recommended for priority re-housing by the Occupational Therapy section, all properties are checked by Disability Housing Advisors from the OT/Adaptations section NCC to ensure the property is suitable to needs of the applicant before the offer is made.

First consideration for any bungalows or adapted properties is given to those applicants with an urgent need priority on medical/disability grounds.

I believe that this is satisfactory in that it gives people who have a disability or long term illness the highest priority possible in an area where there is a shortage of bungalow and similar accommodation historically and where Nottingham City Council have over the years done everything possible to provide this accommodation despite not being able to build Council houses.

I hope that this is a full explanation of the issue.