

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Nottingham,

on Monday 9 February 2009 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

65 ADJOURNMENT

The Lord Mayor opened the meeting and then adjourned to allow invited guests to address the Council. Professors Greenaway and Puri had been invited to talk to members about current global economic issues.

66 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

In respect of agenda item 7, Audit Commission Act 1998 – Section 8 Public Interest report on Allocations of Council Properties and related matters, the following members declared interests:-

Councillor Grocock declared a personal and prejudicial interest as an individual referred to within the report, and left the room prior to consideration of that item.

Councillor Liversidge declared a personal interest as a Council appointed Director of Nottingham City Homes Limited which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

67 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Public Question

Nottingham City Secondary Schools Blood Donor Project

The Lord Mayor asked the following questions on behalf of Mr Donlan, of the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services:-

Reference the Nottingham City Secondary Schools Blood Donor Project, and the meeting held at the Council House on Thursday 22 January 2009.

Several councillors have written to me indicating support for this project, however, my questions are intended to provide all councillors with an update of progress and to place on record what the City Council have agreed to do in support of this project.

- 1 What schools/organisations were represented at the meeting on 22 January 2009?

- 2 Which schools were unable to attend the meeting but expressed support for this project?
- 3 Which schools were invited to attend this meeting?
- 4 Will the City Council provide the £1,000 funding for one year for this project as requested in the discussion document 17 December 2007, page 9, item 1. Confirmation of funding was requested again 22 January 2009?
- 5 What has the City Council agreed to do to activate this project?
- 6 Will the City Council require a progress report to be given to the full Council before the end of the school summer term, July 2009.

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:-

Thank you, Lord Mayor and may I thank Mr Donlan for his questions today.

To take them in order: which schools/organisations were represented at the meeting on 22 January? Nottingham City Council Children's Services was represented, as was Trinity School, Nottingham University Samworth Academy, the National Blood Service, Mr Donlan in his own right and also as a representative of Colonel Frank Seely School in Calverton, the Executive Board and the Council, through myself and Councillor Bull who is also Mr Donlan's ward councillor.

In terms of schools that were unable to attend but expressed support for this project, they were Bluecoat School and Greenwood Dale School. Which schools were invited to the meeting? Well, giving blood can only be done by young people aged at least seventeen years old, even though they can register before that. It's only really the schools with sixth forms that it was relevant to and it was these that were invited, namely Trinity School, Bluecoat School, Greenwood Dale School, Fernwood School, Djanogly Academy and the Nottingham Emmanuel School.

In addition there are two of the academies due to open in September that will have sixth forms in the future and so invitations

also went to the Nottingham University Samworth Academy and the Bulwell Academy.

Will the Council provide a £1,000 for the one year of this project? It wasn't really clear from the meeting on 22 January why funding was necessary in order to progress this work. The National Blood Service indicated that they fully intended to move this forward. If however a small amount of funding is needed in the future to progress this work then this could be considered at a future date.

So what will the Council do to activate this project?

Five things, firstly, the City Council will be working with the National Blood Service to facilitate greater awareness of the need for blood donations in Nottingham.

Secondly, this will involve supporting the National Blood Service in their direct approaches to City schools by publicising the educational scheme through Scene, the major information conduit between the local authority and our schools. The National Blood Service scheme will offer resource packs, visits, donor sessions information, assembly presentations and the like and schools would be able to contact the National Blood Service direct to request further information. The National Blood Service information was distributed to schools through Scene on 3 February this year.

Thirdly, the City Council will distribute targeted information across the community learning centres in order to raise awareness of the shortage of specific blood types related to our ethnic communities. This has begun and will be completed by the end of February.

Fourthly, the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services will, wherever possible, promote the National Blood Service scheme on any visits made to schools.

Fifthly, there will be an ongoing dialogue between Children's Services and the National Blood Service on the progress of the scheme, and Mr Donlan's six and final question was 'Will the City Council require a progress report to be given to full Council before the end of the school summer term, July this year?' This is not thought necessary as it is a scheme promoted by the National Blood Service to work directly with schools.

It is no longer appropriate for the Local Authority to be seen to be directing schools and the provision they make in areas such as this. There is not the capacity to invest in duplicating the promotion of the scheme, however the City Council will encourage schools to access the scheme and support other National Blood Service initiatives wherever possible in light of the developing understanding between the City Council and the National Blood Service on this initiative. I have to say this is good news for us as a Council.

Whilst it is not appropriate for us as a Council to run a blood donation service in our partnership with schools, it is very appropriate that we promote such an opportunity.

Making a positive contribution is one of the five 'Every Child Matters' outcomes and in promoting the need for blood donation we are encouraging young people to make that positive contribution literally. The need for such promotion was brought to our attention by Mr Donlan who has been the co-ordinator of the blood donor project at Colonel Frank Seely at Calverton in the county for the last ten years. As a City resident Mr Donlan is keen to see such a scheme operating in our City and I wish to congratulate him for his persistence and enthusiasm in pursuing the same. His contacts with Councillor Bull, his local representative, led to a meeting in the autumn where we as a Council considered what we could do to promote this scheme. Officers from Children's Services then invited schools to the meeting held in January that was referred to and we are confident that blood donation will take place as a result of the relationship of the Council with some of our schools in the City and the National Blood Service.

So, the letter and encouragement of a constituent taken up by an active and effective local Councillor has enabled us as a City Council to encourage our partners and schools to offer this opportunity to young people in the City. I believe this is the right way for change to take place and demonstrates the ability of a Nottingham citizen to effect change and new initiatives and I look forward to hearing from schools taking this development forward.

Thank you.

68 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 8 December 2008 and the ordinary meeting held on 8 December 2008, be confirmed and signed by the Lord Mayor.

69 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Chief Executive announced the following awards:

Medilink

The Public Transport team had received a number of awards for their work on the Medilink service, which provided free travel for people from Park and Ride sites to both the City and Queen's Medical Centre Hospitals.

Jointly with the NHS University Hospitals Trust, the team won the Corporate Citizenship category in the Health Service Journal Awards 2008 and the Health Business Award 2008 for "Logistics and Transport".

British Standard Accreditation Scheme

Nottingham City Council had gained the accreditation of its CCTV operation through the British Standard. This standard provided recommendations for the management and operation of CCTV and was applicable to CCTV schemes used in public places, which included areas where the public were encouraged to enter or have a right to visit, such as town centres, shopping malls and public transport.

The Partnership Council Awards

Two members of Streetscene had won awards from The Partnership Council, a part charity funded organisation which focused on environment and community in Area 4 (Berridge, Radford and Arboretum).

The awards were won by Wesley Muers who was named Outstanding Community Contribution of the Year and Partnership Worker of the Year, and Troy Muers also picked up a Partnership Worker of the Year award.

Guinness World Record

In partnership with Castle Rock Brewery, Nottingham Castle hosted a successful attempt to break the world record for the number of Robin Hoods. 1119 people dressed up as the famous outlaw and the event scooped the best Public Relations and Sponsorship Initiative Prize in the National Society of Independent Brewers Business Awards.

How Green is Your Market

Victoria Centre Market had won the regional award, covering the whole of the Midlands area, in the National Market Traders' Federation's 'How Green is Your Market' Competition. The awards were presented by Jane Kennedy, the Government's DEFRA minister at the Palace of Westminster.

Institute of Sports and Recreation Management

John Wileman, Head of Sport and Leisure Centres, was nominated and unchallenged for the position of Vice President of the ISRM - Institute of Sports and Recreation Management - for 2008/09.

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

70 QUESTIONS

Executive Assistants – Children's Services

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, the specific contributions to policy and the successes achieved, by the Executive Assistants for Children's Services since September this civic year?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:-

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

It is great to see the Liberal Democrats are fully behind our desire to increase our recycling rate in the City. Indeed they have managed a 100 per cent recycling rate in the questions that have

been brought before Council today. As I mentioned in response to Councillor Long's very similar question to me, in September, the Children's Services portfolio is one of great breadth, there is much to understand, to be responsible for and on which to lead policy development.

It is with gratitude that I can tell Council again today of the support that I have in covering the portfolio with my two Executive Assistants. The two Executive Assistants for Children's Services attend all Executive Panel meetings which take 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 Executive Board and can participate in the discussions on policy development.

In addition, assistants meet with me on a regular basis. Since September we have met six times as a Children's Services member team to discuss my priorities as Portfolio Holder and how the two assistants might support these priorities, to discuss the current issues and developments within Children's Services, the initiatives that the assistants are particularly involved in and to discuss responses to concern expressed to us by members of the community and others regarding areas pertinent to Children's Services.

The Departmental Management team discuss the Children and Young Persons' Plan and other such issues. Both Councillor Smith and Ibrahim are members of the Transforming Communities Working Group at the Council and have both recently become members of the Corporate Parenting Board of which Councillor Smith is the Vice-Chair. Both assistants attended a breakfast meeting last month with staff involved with children in care to hold an in-depth discussion on how we might improve outcomes for these children.

Councillor Ibrahim has a particular role with regard to schools and since September he 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 to 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.

These have included St Mary's Catholic School in Hyson Green, Dovecote Primary School in Clifton and joint school events held at the Sandfield Centre.

In September, Councillor Ibrahim met with newly qualified teachers who had just started teaching in the City to welcome them to Nottingham.

In November, he attended the seminar Every Family Matters on my behalf, in December, he attended the City's Christmas Charity Concert at the Albert Hall, the official opening of the new Sycamore Primary School in St Ann's and a seasonal celebration at Nottingham Trent University on my behalf.

In January, he attended the turf cutting at the new Southwark Primary School in Basford and an Early Years knowledge workshop at the Park Plaza Hotel.

In addition, Councillor Ibrahim has been involved in developing culturally sensitive sex and relationships education with the Healthy Schools Team for whom he acts as a champion and advocate.

Councillor Ibrahim is our local authority representative on the Djanogly Academy governing body which ensures that we have a high level voice in the development of the academy.

Councillor Smith has particularly concentrated on the delivery of Children's Services on an area basis and looked at developments within Youth Services, in particular. In September, he visited Glenbrook School to see the extended school's officer, the Russell Youth Club on Forest Fields to coincide with the Regional Minister's visit to the centre and visited Green Lane Youth and Community Centre in Clifton and spent time with young people there.

In addition he visited Hadden Park High School and the Colwick Adventure Base. Councillor Smith joined one of the Adoption Panels and ensures that I get valuable feedback from this vital area of Council's work. This involves a full day each month and the equivalent time for reading the papers involved.

In October, Councillor Smith accompanied me to an East Midlands Youth Pride Event in Derby. In November, he visited the

Wheelbase Youth Project in Sneinton, in December, he visited the Ace Base Nottingham Tennis Centre, presentation at the university and the multi-agency locality team in Bilborough. In January, he accompanied detached youth workers on the streets of Mapperley.

As lead member for Children's Services I get invited to many different events in schools and other children's services venues. I would love to attend as many such events as possible. 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. This attendance also underlines the importance to staff, parents, children and councillors, in particular, give to such events. Therefore, in conclusion, I believe the role of an Executive Assistant is an important one and a vital one for me as Portfolio Holder if I am to cover the breadth of the portfolio effectively.

The successes in our City and Children's Services, whether they be at GCSE results, new building programmes, awards for the Youth Service or positive inspections for children's homes are ones which many people are responsible but ones in which we can all share in their successes, schools, partners, officers and indeed members and I am pleased that my Executive Assistants can share in those successes.

Executive Assistant – Adult Services and Health

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, specific contributions to policy and the successes achieved, by the Executive Assistant for Adult Services and Health since September this civic year?

Councillor Liversidge replied as follows:-

I thank Councillor Oldham for his question two days after the most momentous event in almost a century. But since September, Councillor James has represented the Council alongside myself at the Association of Directors of Adult and Social Services National Conference and has regular input into the weekly Executive Panel

meetings that take place every Thursday. He works with the Nottingham Elders Forum where he is the Older Persons' Champion for Nottingham City Council.

One of the things that I found since I became a Portfolio Holder is that there is a number of posts that they expect the Portfolio Holder to be, such as the No Smoking Champion, the Elders' Champion, the Dignity Champion and the Safeguarding Champion. Now, personally I am not doing very well with the elders but I rely on Hylton to keep contact with them and listen to their concerns which feed back into our policies which we are dealing with.

I suppose the biggest policy item that we have had since September is the interest in the budget which will be coming to Council next month and Hylton has had regular meetings with myself to discuss this budget, to put in views so that we can take the budget further forward so that we can see through some of the implications that take place when the budget is finally agreed.

Also, and I suppose very important, is that since September he has been doing a series of visits to individuals and to facilities to make a reality check, on the usefulness of some of the facilities, both provided by the Council and for the Council. For instance, as well as the obvious buildings and such, its people's homes where Help the Aged are doing a handy person service.

I do believe that as adult care changes over the next two years, because its obviously going to change, there's a massive policy shift in adult care, there is going to be more and more need for councillors and the Council to judge these facilities and Hylton is putting his toe into the water to do that with people and one of the difficulties we have, of course, is getting him allowed to go to some places because they won't let him in, but we are working on that.

Thank you.

Executive Assistants – Resources, Economic Development and Reputation

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 work plan, activities undertaken, specific contributions to policy and the successes achieved, by the Executive Assistant for Resources, Economic Development and Reputation, since September this civic year?

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:-

Unlike my two other colleagues, I rather welcome this question because it gives me an opportunity to find out, well it stimulates me talking to Hassan about what the hell he has been up to, which we do on a regular occasion but its nice to formalise it and there's quite a lot. He has a work programme which is agreed as a 9 point work programme and it started as a 7 point work programme. The first one is Council Jobs for Local People and that actually is bottomed out because the system that we have been using is not that brilliant. Its not bad but its not that brilliant and he has spent a lot of time dismantling it and decoking it and we expect some improvement very shortly. Meanwhile there has been some substantial improvement as we will be providing a large number of new apprenticeships next year, and I have also got to thank very much the Director of Nottingham City Homes (NCH) for his cooperation and the way they have risen to the challenge because NCH was on the job description at the beginning and NCH were occupied with other things, I can't think what! But they have now concentrated and once they start concentrating things shift and its Hassan that has pushed this, in particular.

Then we move on to Local Jobs for Local People which are jobs outside the Council and there has been considerable contact with Building Schools for the Future and we now expect there to be considerable improvement in the number of people being taken on. In fact, that's already happening I had reassurance from the Project Director during the week and it was partly as a consequence of a visitation from Hassan Ahmed, now you don't get visits, you get visitations.

Similarly, promoting neighbourhood training centres. We have a fairly erratic provision of neighbourhood training centres throughout the City because they have sprouted up through spontaneous combustion, lets say, and not in any co-ordinated manner. We are trying to create greater co-ordination but the first step has been to

do something about the Bulwell Vision and we are just about on the point of reconfiguring the job advice at Bulwell Vision and there will be an announcement shortly as to how we are going to improve it.

Similarly there has been a lot of energy put into Best training which is in Broxtowe, a very successful one which we do need to promote which brings me onto co-ops and social enterprise which is another area where I think there has been considerable improvement in from where we were last May. Necta, for example, went into liquidation and the Council has had to pick up a lot of its liabilities.

We are also negotiating to create some more social enterprises in the City and we are expecting, certainly the one I know most about is the Best one on Broxtowe Estate which will be taking on some responsibility for the housing improvement strategy, over a hundred houses will be involved in modernising but probably under the wing of the housing company and again congratulations even though he is not listening, congratulations to the Director of Nottingham City Homes. Skills Board, not terribly well organised organisation, could be a lot better focussed; Job Centre Plus, a bit absent and there has been a review of how its operating. We are still not happy with the review and there will be further overtures from the City about improving it still further and again Hassan has been the lead member on that.

Colleges provision, we are both lobbying very hard as you will probably hear later on in the questions in order to get college building going in the City. Construction is a very important area and as we heard from the Vice Chancellor earlier on, if there's going to be substantial unemployment in the City then one of the best ways of dealing with some of the young people coming out of school is through construction and through construction training, so we are really keen to get Basford Hall going again and Hassan has been involved in that.

Using the Council's procurement to increase local training and job opportunities. We have revised the procurement system and so our policies have changed. What we haven't got round to is making sure the practices change and there will be a meeting during the week in order to try and find out how we are going to make the practices change in order to follow the policies because we all know policies are ten a penny, practices are far more expensive. So we

will be concentrating on that and again Councillor Ahmed has had involvement in that.

Finally, the use of Section 106 for training and employment initiatives. Not made any progress on that at all so I thought I'd throw that one in just to prove that it's a fairly honest report on my part but he's worth his five grand.

Thank you.

Allocation of Property

Councillor Culley asked the following question of the Leader of the City Council:-

In the Nottingham Evening Post on 15 January 2009 the Leader of the Council said that the Council would seek to repossess property which had been wrongly allocated or purchased under the right to buy scheme.

Referring to the Audit Commission report regarding the allocation of properties, the Leader of the Council was quoted as saying "I'm appalled by what I read and I expect local residents to be appalled."

These statements are supported by the Conservative Group, but does the Leader agree that it is vital that a further investigation is carried out for the January 2000 to March 2003 period, and that a further investigation needs to be carried out over the 2003 to 2005 period where another sample of 10% of manual allocations are investigated for wrong doing, in order for Nottingham City Council to put the matter behind it once and for all?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:-

Thank you, Lord Mayor and can I thank Councillor Culley for her question and the Conservative Group's support for the stance the Council has taken in response to the Audit Commission report that we will, of course, be debating later on this agenda.

On the substance of her question, let me be clear, that I accept the judgements of the Audit Commission over their three year

investigation and on the scope of their investigation just as I accept every one of the recommendations they make in the report.

I believe it's now the job of the City Council and Nottingham City Homes to act on those recommendations and to ensure that wherever we can those directly responsible for abuses are held to account and those that knowingly benefited lose that benefit. It's then for the Council and Nottingham City Homes to build on the two star and excellent prospects judgment recently received by NCH and to ensure that we provide for our tenants the high quality housing service that we know they want and deserve.

E-ons Back Billing

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

Would the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Economic Development and Skills agree that E-on's refusal to stop back billing residents on prepayment meters is a "national disgrace".

Given the energy companies are declaring massive profits and not reducing bills in line with energy prices, would he now support renewed calls for a "windfall tax" on the energy companies?

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:-

Can I thank Councillor Newton for his question.

The practice of sending backdated bills to customers is known as 'back billing'. The problem often arises when the energy supply companies increase their prices but engineers don't get round to updating the old-style 'token' meters. Customers unknowingly build up debt because they're being charged at an incorrect rate and I have had a number of cases myself.

In late 2008 token meters started to be switched to key card meters. At this point the error became clear. This problem does not affect just E-on but also Scottish Power and npower and I have had dealings with Scottish Power over this matter. Scottish and Southern, EDF Energy and British Gas abandoned the practice of back billing in 2007 and they should be congratulated for it.

E-on hopes to replace old token meters with key card meters by June 2009 and has encouraged customers to contact them to arrange token meter changes.

Ofgem added a new licence condition in 2007 that says “where a domestic customer pays charges for the supply of electricity/gas through a pre-payment meter, the licensee must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the meter is reset within a reasonable period of time”.

So far only a small number of instances have been brought to the attention of Nottingham City Council Welfare Rights. In one instance E-on agreed to substantially reduce the perceived debt. We are aware that npower has widely reduced backdated bills to £70.

It is very sad that households on restricted budgets, who are paying by pre-payment meter, which should prevent the customer getting into debt, can end up with substantial arrears.

The concern is that the roll out of the new key card meters continues, so instances are likely to rise over the coming months up to June 2009 when the process should have been concluded.

My own view is that if any organisation has billed somebody on the expectation of the amount that they have consumed and then discovers that because of their own fault that the bill is wrong, I have a case with a solicitor myself of wrong billing and been quite willing to pay up, then all of a sudden out of the blue comes an additional bill. I just think its simple courtesy to write that bill off if there has been an error from the corporate organisation. It's even more necessary because the people on meters are always the people who are worst off, they are always the people who are paying over the odds for their electricity and have no cashflow. They live from week to week and therefore there's no excuse for back billing when it's the fault of the company and so therefore I fully agree.

Penultimately, I have also been told to thank the Evening Post, this is by the officer who has been raising the issue in January 2009, I

am very happy to do that but then there is the question of windfall tax and the energy companies, of course we should, thank you.

Review of Capital Projects

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

Does the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Economic Development and Skills share my concern about the imminent review of capital projects within the further education sector and would he write to the Learning and Skills Council urging them to support the proposal for the new £60 million Basford Learning Park?

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:-

I am going to disagree with Councillor Newton as I don't share his concerns about the review and the reasons why I don't share his concerns are because I don't think any of the Nottingham schemes would have stood a chance without it. The reason why there is a review is that there is an excess of demand from the colleges throughout the country for the amount of money available.

In addition, costs were escalating and there was a problem of a lot of these schemes being dependent on land sales and the land market has virtually disappeared so therefore a review was necessary and because it's happening it means it could well mean that Nottingham, because there has been under investing in Nottingham, may stand more chance of getting something from the national cake.

Without a review of all the national schemes it may well be our schemes that may have fallen off the edge, so therefore, it's a good thing to have the review, so long as it doesn't go on and having spoken to one of the Regional Chief Execs this morning about this matter he tells me that what they are interested in out of the review is that each region gets to prioritise the building programme and if it's done on a regional basis I think it is accepted that Nottingham has been under invested in. It is also accepted that we may well get some sort of priority but it all depends on whether the LSC nationally is willing to regionalise the priorities and, of course, if Nottingham gets some priority nationally then one of our top

priorities has got to be the rebuilding of Basford Hall for the reasons I gave earlier.

So, in short, no, I don't quite agree with it, however, I am also willing to write to the Government about it and can I also congratulate him that he has got a national petition going to Downing Street, I think it's extremely helpful. However, the ultimate weapon that we have in our armoury over this is to launch Graham Allen at the problem because I have been told that when you launch Graham Allen at ministers they recoil and reach for the cheque books, so that's what we are going to do, thanks.

71 URGENT DECISION – USE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVES DELEGATED AUTHORITY – RE-PROVISION OF NUFFIELD HOUSE DAY CENTRE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

The report of Councillor Collins (as set out on page 234 of the agenda) was submitted and its recommendations was moved by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Liversidge.

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Liversidge, that the following be noted:-

- (1) the Chief Executive's urgent decision taken on 4 November approving the proposal to finance the relocation of Nuffield House outside of the usual cycle of approvals for capital expenditure at a cost of £1.1m, to be paid to Leicester – ASRA Housing Association in 2009/10;**
- (2) the reason for urgency, namely that failure to make an urgent delegated decision could have resulted in the project to develop an extra care housing facility on the site of Welland Court sheltered housing scheme being jeopardised.**

72 AUDIT COMMISSION ACT 1998 – SECTION 8 PUBLIC INTEREST REPORT ON ALLOCATIONS OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES AND RELATED MATTERS

The report of Councillor Clark (circulated separately to the agenda) was submitted.

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

Add recommendation (5)

“The Chief Executive submits the Public Interest Report to the Police asking them to undertake an investigation, and possible prosecutions, starting with the information available from the District Auditor.”

The meeting adjourned.

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

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

- (1) the Public Interest report and recommendations of the District Auditor be considered;**
- (2) the specific findings and recommendations set out on pages 5 and 6 of the District Auditor’s report be accepted in full;**
- (3) the action plan and response to the report, as set out in the appendix to the report, as the Authority’s official response to the Public Interest report be approved;**
- (4) regular progress reports on the action plan be submitted to the Executive Board by the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Regeneration.**

73 REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND STRATEGY FOR DEBT MANAGEMENT

The report of Councillor Chapman (as set out on page 239 of the agenda) was submitted and its recommendations were moved by Councillor Chapman and seconded by Councillor Collins.

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Chapman, seconded by Councillor Collins, that the strategies identified in paragraph 1 of the report and set out in Appendix A, B and paragraph 4.5 of

Appendix 1 to the report be approved, including the additional recommendations relating to the Treasury Management Strategy 2009/10:-

- (1) that the total amount invested in money market funds be limited to £25m;**
- (2) that the Council's bankers, currently the Co-operative Bank, be added to the counterparty list with a maximum investment period of 5 days.**

74 APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE/HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

The report of Councillor Ahmed (as set out on page 268 of the agenda) was submitted and its recommendations were moved by Councillor Ahmed and seconded by Councillor Collins.

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Ahmed, seconded by Councillor Collins, that the City Council accepts the Appointment and Conditions of Service Committee's recommendation and offers the post of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service to Jane Todd on the terms and conditions approved by the Committee, with the exception of the salary where it is recommended that Ms Todd be offered the lower salary (£165,000) she has requested.

75 MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR CHAPMAN – GOVERNMENTS ECONOMIC STRATEGY

MOVED by Councillor Chapman, seconded by Councillor Newton:-

This Council supports the Government's economic strategy as the means of reducing the impact of the current recession and of laying the foundation for future sustainable growth in the city. Consequently the City Council will take measures to maximise the benefits of government action by helping improve skills, by investing in infrastructure, by supporting innovation in sustainable industry and commerce, and by working with our communities to address the effects on housing and to build community cohesion.

Moved by Councillor Long by way of amendment and seconded by Councillor Foster that:-

After 'This Council' delete all up to and including "Consequently the City Council"

The amended motion to read.

This Council will take measures to maximise the benefits of government action by helping improve skills, by investing in infrastructure, by supporting innovation in sustainable industry and commerce, and by working with our communities to address the effects on housing and to build community cohesion."

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

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Chapman, seconded by Councillor Newton that this Council supports the Government's economic strategy as the means of reducing the impact of the current recession and of laying the foundation for future sustainable growth in the city. Consequently the City Council will take measures to maximise the benefits of government action by helping improve skills, by investing in infrastructure, by supporting innovation in sustainable industry and commerce, and by working with our communities to address the effects on housing and to build community cohesion.

76 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

RESOLVED that the following in year changes to committee memberships be noted:-

- (i) the appointment of Councillor Bryan as a substitute for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;**
- (ii) the resignation of Councillor Liversidge as a member of the City Centre Area Committee and the appointment of Councillors Collins and Urquhart.**

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Council Question requiring a written response

The following responses were circulated to all members on 23 February 2009.

Proposed Housing Development - Clifton

Councillor Spencer asked the following question of the Leader:-

Does the Leader share my frustration and that of many people at Clifton that while the City of Nottingham has achieved its housing target – we are going to have another 5,500 homes built on our door step, damaging a thriving community and spoiling the Green belt.

Does he agree with me that the people of Clifton deserve to have the right to veto this development?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:

Let me assure you that I understand the concerns of residents in Clifton about the nature of the housing development proposed for the area and their wish to influence this.

If the development goes ahead, which seems rather unlikely in the current economic climate, we will of course work closely with local people to ensure that those concerns are heard and fully presented to Rushcliffe Borough Council, the planning authority.

Ultimately, as I am sure you are aware, it is the Conservative-controlled Rushcliffe Borough Council that will decide if the development goes ahead. Nevertheless, in coming to their decision, Conservative Councillors there will have to take account of the housing targets agreed for the East Midlands by the Conservative-controlled Regional Authority.

However, I am sure that as a member of the Conservative party you will have already discussed these matters with your colleagues, Councillor David Parsons the Conservative Chair of the Regional Assembly and Leader of Leicestershire County Council, and Councillor Neil Clarke, the

Conservative Leader of Rushcliffe Borough Council, and received the assurances you are seeking.

As for the question of a veto, I suspect that Conservative Councillors in Rushcliffe would welcome a veto by City Council residents on Rushcliffe planning decisions about as much as Councillors of all parties in Nottingham City would welcome residents of Rushcliffe having a veto on planning decisions that we take!

It is nevertheless an interesting idea and I look forward to it featuring in the next Conservative local and national election manifestos.