

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Nottingham,

on Monday 8 June 2009 at 2.00 pm

### ATTENDANCES

✓ Councillor Packer		Lord Mayor
✓ Councillor Ahmed	✓	Councillor A Khan
✓ Councillor Akhtar	✓	Councillor G Khan
✓ Councillor Arnold		Councillor Klein
✓ Councillor Aslam		Councillor Lee
✓ Councillor Benson	✓	Councillor Liversidge
Councillor Bryan	✓	Councillor Long
✓ Councillor Bull	✓	Councillor MacLennan
✓ Councillor Campbell	✓	Councillor Malcolm
✓ Councillor Chapman	✓	Councillor Marshall
✓ Councillor Clark	✓	Councillor Mellen
✓ Councillor Clarke-Smith		Councillor Mir
Councillor Collins	✓	Councillor Morley
✓ Councillor Cresswell	✓	Councillor Munir
✓ Councillor Culley	✓	Councillor Newton
✓ Councillor Davie	✓	Councillor Oldham
✓ 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

## **12 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Councillors Benson, Grocock, Hartshorne and Wood declared personal and prejudicial interests in agenda item 7 - the Review of the City Council's Statement of Gambling Policy – as City Council nominated directors of Nottingham Racecourse Limited, and withdrew from the Chamber during discussion of the item.

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

There were no questions from members of the public. The following petitions were submitted:-

### **(a) Councillor Morley – Closure of Facilities at Wollaton Park**

Councillor Morley submitted a further petition to the Lord Mayor on behalf of local residents and visitors to the facilities, opposing the closure of the Industrial Museum, the Picture Gallery and the Steam Engine Museum at Wollaton Park. The petition contained 5,220 signatures.

### **(b) Councillor Malcolm – State of the Old Rectory, Clifton**

Councillor Malcolm submitted a petition to the Lord Mayor on behalf of local residents requesting that the City Council investigates the current state of the building fabric and measures to prevent it from becoming an eyesore. The petition contained 242 signatures.

### **(c) Councillor Foster – Trimming of Trees in Spinney off Eskdale and Cherrywood Drive**

Councillor Foster submitted a petition to the Lord Mayor on behalf of local residents which requested that trees in the spinney off Eskdale and Cherrywood Drive be trimmed back. The petition contained 48 signatures.

**(d) Councillor Williams – Possible Use of land at Colwick Woods by Nottingham Academy**

Councillor Williams submitted a petition to the Lord Mayor on behalf of the Friends of Colwick Woods, who sought to advise the City Council of their opposition to any proposal that land at Colwick Woods should be used as playing fields by Nottingham Academy. The petition contained a total of 494 signatures.

**(e) Councillor Akhtar – Parking Difficulties on Meadow Way, Risely Drive and Ainsworth Drive, etc.**

Councillor Akhtar submitted a petition to the Lord Mayor on behalf of local residents who were seeking to stop car parking on Meadow Way, Risely Drive and Ainsworth Drive for non-residents. The petition contained a total of 54 signatures.

**(f) Councillor Grocock – Introduction of Early Morning Swimming Sessions at Southglade Leisure Centre**

Councillor Grocock submitted a petition to the Lord Mayor on behalf of local residents who sought the introduction of early morning swimming sessions at Southglade Leisure Centre. The petition contained a total of 44 signatures.

**14 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2009, be confirmed and signed by the Lord Mayor.

**15 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chief Executive reported the following communications:-

**Royal Institute Of Chartered Surveyors**

Wollaton Hall has won both Project of the Year Award and Building Conservation Award for major improvement and conservation works from the East Midlands Branch of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

## Regional Health and Social Care Awards

Having been nominated in three separate categories, Adult Support and Health came away with two prestigious regional health and social care awards at a recent ceremony.

They were winners in the Innovation in Technology Category, for the Stayput Laundry Identification System, which assisted people in residential care with dementia to identify their clothes, and in the Transforming Services Category for the Intake Reablement Team, which provided intensive support to allow people to regain as much of their daily living skills as possible, enabling them to regain their independence.

Both winners now go on to consideration at national level.

## Local Government Communications Awards

The Nottingham Arrow defended its title at the Local Government Association LG Communications Awards, where it won gold to remain Local Government Publication of the Year. The Arrow is an important tool in communicating with our residents and the award was an acknowledgement of the consistent hard work by staff at the City Council.

Once again, the range of awards won indicated that Nottingham was leading the way on all fronts.

## **16 QUESTIONS**

There were no questions to the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority.

### **Nottinghamshire Police Authority**

#### **Gang Activity and Crime**

Councillor Culley asked the following question of the Chairman of the Police Authority:-

Would the Chairman of the Police Authority outline what action is being taken to combat gang related activity and crime in the City of Nottingham? Furthermore, can he detail the resources allocated to this major issue.

County Councillor Clarke replied as follows:-

Thank you my Lord Mayor. I would like to thank Councillor Culley for her question. She will appreciate that the issues she has raised are mainly operational and I have therefore asked for a response from the Chief Constable which is set out below.

### **Operation Vanguard**

Operation Vanguard describes the City Basic Command Unit approach to tackling gun and drug related crime, criminality in the City and the conurbation. The team comprises a dedicated number of officers with a clear line management and governance structure in place.

Operation Vanguard has achieved a number of recent successes, including high profile dismantling of drug networks in Bulwell - 50 arrests for dealing drugs and, across the City, £1.5m worth of cannabis cultivation.

Vanguard has a dedicated intelligence cell, which exploits opportunities to profile gun and drug organised networks in the City. The intelligence picture enhances the local, regional and national perspectives for organised crime and this includes developing the existing knowledge of "gang" networks between level 1 and level 2 functions. Vanguard is well placed to work with and co-ordinate lower level gang tensions at Neighbourhood Police level. Vanguard also works in close collaboration with Level 2 teams currently working with the Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) tackling risks associated with recent incidents within the City.

Vanguard also exploits the partnership opportunities and places equal focus on sharing information with partners to address the underlying harms and causes from organised networks. This includes the resurgence and diversion strategies with youth workers, civil enforcement and drug interventions.

Nottingham City has a real and tangible model dealing with local gang issues up to wider organised crime networks.

### **Operation Centurion**

Operation Centurion continues to operate across the City. This links into the work the force is engaged in, to address knife crime and serious youth violence.

We continue to deploy search arches in partnership with licensed premises, which offers reassurance and enables the early detection of the carriage of weapons.

A wide spectrum of tactics continue to be deployed via intelligence led enforcement and reassurance activity, such as CCTV vans, stop and search and increased levels of high visibility patrols.

As important, is the delivery of educational information to young people regarding the risks of involvement in violent crime and the carriage of weapons. One such resource is 'Piece by Piece' which looks at the legacy of knife and firearm enabled crime, and this is being delivered to young people of secondary school age.

So far as resources are concerned I am sure that Councillor Culley will appreciate there is a need to make the most efficient use of resources and the Chief Constable and the Police Authority need to balance spending in relation to neighbourhood policing, serious crime and crime prevention activity and I hope that Councillor Culley will be satisfied that considerable activity is taking place within Nottingham to meet the challenges of the issues she refers to in her question.

### **Tram and Local Conservatives**

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

Would the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Area Working inform the Council whether she has any idea where Nottingham Conservatives stand on the development of the next phase of the tram?

Councillor Urquhart replied as follows:-

Thank you Councillor Aslam. Thank you Lord Mayor.

As people can imagine I have been asked about the tram quite a lot over the last few days.

On Thursday morning I thought I knew very clearly that Nottinghamshire County Tories were against Phase 2 of the tram. By Friday afternoon though, County Councillor Cutts was saying that Line 1 was good and straight forward, yet Phase 2 was ridiculous infrastructure.

By Saturday, she was saying that she might change her view on Phase 2, and a move away from the previous short-sighted lack of understanding of the business, economic and social benefit is very welcome. I hope that move that we have seen over the last few days will continue, and I would hope to have discussions with the County Councillors in order to take this project forward.

I know, therefore, much more about where the County Tories stand than I do about our City Tory view. The NET Phase 2 project is clearly an ambitious plan to improve public transport, bring regeneration, economic benefits and to ease congestion across our City and conurbation. However, it does not seem to be worthy of comment by the City Tory Group.

I can only conclude that either they do not have a view because they lack a vision for the City, or they have too many views and cannot decide whose they prefer. Either way, it is clear that City Tories have not taken a position on one of the most important issues of investment in our City. An investment that is huge where the Government is willing to put in over £400m into our City.

I know that I and my party fully support Phase 2 and will be continuing to work for Phase 2 of the tram in the new circumstances after last week's elections. Thankfully the County Tories are already indicating that they may be willing to talk to us about that. There may be some signs that we can work with them on looking at Phase 2 of the tram.

I have known for a long time too that my colleagues on the Liberal Democratic benches are supporters of Phase 2 of the tram, both in the City and their County colleagues. However, City Tories never even seem to have had a policy that they could change so no, Councillor Aslam, I am sorry I don't know where they stand.

## **City Pulse Events**

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

Would the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Customers comment on the success of City Pulse events over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend?

Councillor Trimble replied as follows:-

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

The Pulse Music and Dance Festival was indeed a great success over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend with a main stage in the Square plus other stages around Chapel Bar, Foreman Street, Hockley, St Peters Gate and the Robin Hood Statue at the Castle. The event was organised in partnership with Nottingham Leisure Partnership and I would like to offer my thanks to them for their participation.

A wide variety of music styles appealed to all ages, and it was also complemented by the Rock City organised Dot to Dot Festival, featuring contemporary and Hindi music ensuring that Nottingham promoted a fantastic music offer over the entire weekend. Footfall figures for a City Centre were 580,000, an increase of over 52,000 over other weekends in May.

We received a number of favourable comments directly as a result of the Pulse Festival, including a number complimenting the behaviour of young people and teenagers attending the event. We received comments such as 'the City felt very Europe' - and I am sure Councillor MacLennan will dig this one, - that 'the City felt like a really happy place'. We also received many favourable comments from artists and businesses including 'the City Pulse is brilliant' and one stating 'top marks for the organisers especially the person that organised the weather'.



Lord Mayor, all involved can take great credit for staging a fantastic and extremely successful event and it bodes well for a summer of top sports, fantastic events and great festivals.

### **Children's Play Across The City**

Councillor Malcolm asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Customers:-

Would the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Customers like to comment about the exciting recent developments in Children's Play across the City which have been made possible by the City Council, Pathfinder Funding from DCSF and the Big Lottery Fund?

Councillor Trimble replied as follows:-

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

Over the past two years Parks and Open Spaces have worked closely with Children's Services to develop the Nottingham Play Partnership and the Nottingham Play Strategy, which have been the basis of two very successful funding bids. Parks and Open Spaces have led a bid that secured £894,135 from the Big Lottery Fund's Children's Play Programme, and Children's Services led the bid for Play Pathfinder status - a bid that secured £2,709,398 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

Parks and Open Spaces are successfully leading on playground redevelopment having completed 14 playgrounds in Year 1. The 15, Year 2 playgrounds for refurbishment, are already well into the planning stage. I don't know of a time where we have spent so much money on our playgrounds in the City. This will include our destination playground at the Forest, with a large pirate ship that children in wheelchairs will be able to access, and personally, I think that is absolutely fantastic.

Meanwhile Children's Services are moving on at a pace with a £818,486 adventure playground facility close to Southglade School in the Bestwood area.

Lord Mayor, every single Area Committee in the City will see the benefits of these improvements. Other match funding including section 106, NDC and area capital funding has been secured to maximise our resources, taking our Pathfinder refurbishment spend to over £3.5m. On top of this we have seen our partnership with the PCT produce three outdoor gyms in our parks and I have been past the one on the Forest several times, and there's lots of young people out there giving it great use.

Lord Mayor, this has seen real improvements in our Parks and Playgrounds but the biggest successes I believe, have been the community involvement and the way that Area Committees have engaged in the process, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank members and the communities for engaging in a really ambitious programme.

I would like to thank members for contributing their views, and especially thank members for contributing match funding from area capital funds. Also to thank members in advance for those bids for area capital funds that have not yet been agreed. Thank you.

### **Tesco Pharmacy in Top Valley**

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

Does the Portfolio Holder share my concerns that the proposed Tesco pharmacy in Top Valley presents a threat to existing independent pharmacies in the ward, and what is the Council doing to support these local businesses?

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:-

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

Of course I share your concerns about the loss or threat to any small businesses from large stores. However, I don't know whether he is aware that the application has been withdrawn? Anyway, the application has been withdrawn. However, I must also be quite circumspect myself, as I am on the Development Control Committee and don't want to rule myself out of any judgement on any future planning matters to do with this case. But it doesn't mean to say that if it has been withdrawn that Tesco can't do something within the store, so that is the first thing.

Second, it doesn't mean to say that they can't come back with some new application. Moreover, if they do come back with some application, what we can't do is judge it on the basis of competition, then that is something that would be outside our remit - I notice the Chair of Development Control is nodding, so I must be right by definition. So that is a very difficult position we are in. Where we as a Council cannot control, we do not license pharmacies, and I don't think I would ever want to licence pharmacies - and I don't think your party would ever want us to licence pharmacies. Nor do I think your party would want us to intervene in the market system. So we have a very, very difficult situation that we have to respond to.

In terms of the Council's support for small shops and small businesses. Please note that this Council has been one of the most successful in the country for funding the City Centre and the shopping precincts compared with many many others.

We have fought for years to prevent large, out of town, shopping developments and as a result we have sustained a shopping offer in this City well above the normal, what you would normally expect for a City of this size. Again that is to do with the support that this Labour Group has given to small businesses and shops within the City over a number of years.

We have also invested in many of our local shopping centres. I think of Sherwood, where the Councillors are constantly pestering for increased investment in shopping centres. I also think of Aspley, where there has been some substantial improvements and the shops are flourishing. I think it is probably the case in many more of the district centres. So we have a very, very good record.

Indeed, on support for small businesses, we are bringing out a 'Small Business Arrow' shortly and that will contain a number of equal opportunities for small businesses, a number of ways in which the Council can offer help to small businesses.

We have reduced the repayment time for invoices to small businesses down to twenty days, and will continue to support small businesses wherever possible, so in that, I absolutely share what you like us to do on the planning front and our powers are far more restricted than I think you would acknowledge and I hope you will understand the position we are in. But in principle, certainly, we want to protect local pharmacies.

**17 DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD UNDER THE SPECIAL URGENCY PROCEDURE**

The report of Councillor Collins (as set out on pages 131 to 133 of the agenda) was submitted.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillor Chapman, seconded by Councillor Williams that the decisions taken by the Executive Board at its meeting on 20 January 2009 under the Special Urgency Procedure in respect of the Determination of the 2009/10 Council Tax Tax Base and Capital Expenditure at Eastcroft Energy from Waste Plant, be noted.

**18 REVIEW OF NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY**

The report of Councillor Bull (as set out on pages 134 to 137 of the agenda), together with a copy of the draft Statement of Gambling Policy for public consultation were submitted.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillor Bull, seconded by Councillor Campbell, that the Draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2010-2013 be approved for the purpose of consultation and that a reference be included within the Draft Statement to indicate that the City Council intended to renew it's "No Casino" resolution.

**19 MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR CLARK - "STRONG FOUNDATIONS" – NATIONAL CONSERVATIVE HOUSING POLICY**

MOVED by Councillor Clark, seconded by Councillor Liversidge:-

Having considered the implications for Nottingham of the national Conservative housing policy "Strong Foundations", this Council calls for the document to be referred back so that experienced local Conservative Councillors can be consulted on its content and be asked whether they agree with it.

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

Delete the words after 'referred' in line 3, and insert the following:-

'to experienced local Conservative councillors who can consider this Conservative policy green paper at their forthcoming Housing Seminar on July 25<sup>th</sup>.'

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

**RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Clark, seconded by Councillor Liversidge that, having considered the implications for Nottingham of the national Conservative housing policy "Strong Foundations", this Council calls for the document to be referred back so that experienced local Conservative Councillors can be consulted on its content and be asked whether they agree with it.**

**20 MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR URQUHART  
- SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT 2007**

MOVED by Councillor Urquhart, seconded by Councillor Bull:-

This Council supports the implementation of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 and welcomes the opportunity under the Act to make proposals to Government for changes in legislation to enable local authorities more effectively to address local issues.

This Council is committed to promoting sustainable communities in the City and listening to local people about the issues that impact on social, economic and environmental wellbeing of their communities.

This Council resolves to:-

- (i) consult with local people through Area Committees;
- (ii) submit proposals to Government by 31 July 2009 for changes in legislation to enable local authorities better to address issues such as:
  - litter and fly posting;
  - properties detrimental to the amenity of the neighbourhood;
  - the introduction of new houses in multiple occupation (shared houses) and the management and condition of these homes.

- (iii) develop further proposals under the Act for future rounds as communities identify other central government legislative and policy changes which could benefit them.

MOVED by Councillor Price by way of amendment and seconded by Councillor Morley:-

In (i) above, delete 'Area Committees' and insert the following:-

'...panels including Area Committees and representatives of BME organisations, the Nottingham Elders Forum, Nottingham Youth Council and Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service.'

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

**RESOLVED that, on the amended motion of Councillor Price, seconded by Councillor Morley:-**

- (1) the implementation of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 be supported and the opportunity under the Act to make proposals to Government for changes in legislation to enable local authorities more effectively to address local issues, be welcomed;**
- (2) this Council was committed to promoting sustainable communities in the City and listening to local people about the issues that impact on social, economic and environmental wellbeing of their communities;**

**and resolved to:-**

- (a) consult with local people through panels including Area Committees and representatives of BME organisations, the Nottingham Elders Forum, Nottingham Youth Council and Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service**
- (b) submit proposals to Government by 31 July 2009 for changes in legislation to enable local authorities better to address issues such as:**

- **litter and fly posting;**
  - **properties detrimental to the amenity of the neighbourhood;**
  - **the introduction of new houses in multiple occupation (shared houses) and the management and condition of these homes.**
- (c) develop further proposals under the Act for future rounds as communities identify other central government legislative and policy changes which could benefit them.**

The meeting concluded at 5.10 pm.