

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Nottingham,

on Monday 12 July 2010 at 2.00 pm

### ATTENDANCES

✓ Councillor Grocock	Lord Mayor
✓ Councillor Ahmed	✓ Councillor G 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 Hartshorne	✓ Councillor Trimble
✓ Councillor Heppell	Councillor Unczur
✓ Councillor Ibrahim	✓ Councillor Urquhart
Councillor James	✓ Councillor Watson
✓ Councillor Johnson	✓ Councillor Wildgust
✓ Councillor Jones	✓ Councillor Williams
✓ Councillor A Khan	✓ Councillor Wood

## **11 ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**RESOLVED** that the order of business be varied to enable the agenda items to be considered as set out below:

- items 1 – 5;
- item 7;
- urgent item of business - Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme;
- items 6, 8, 9 and 10.

## **12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Spencer.

## **13 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

In respect of agenda item 7 – NET Phase Two Land Acquisitions, the following Councillors declared interests:-

Councillors Clark and Foster declared personal interests as Council appointed members on the NET Partnership Board, which did not preclude them from speaking or voting on that item.

The Lord Mayor, Councillors Parbutt and Bryan, declared personal and prejudicial interests as Council appointed directors on Nottingham City Transport (NCT) Board and withdrew from the Chamber during discussion of the item.

Councillor Gibson declared a personal interest as a Council appointed member on the NET Partnership Board and a personal and prejudicial interest as a Council appointed director on the NCT Board and withdrew from the Chamber during discussion of the item.

Councillor Malcolm declared a personal interest as a Council appointed member on the Greater Nottingham Light Rapid Transit Advisory Committee, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting on that item.

Councillor Urquhart declared a personal interest as a Council appointed member on the NET Project Board and Partnership Board, which did not preclude her from speaking or voting on that item.

In respect of other items on the agenda the following interests were declared:

Councillor Gibson declared a personal interest on agenda item 9, Review of the Statement of Licensing Policy, as a member of the Highbank and Clifton Community Centres, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting on that item.

Councillor Urquhart declared a personal and prejudicial interest on agenda item 10, motion in the name of Councillor Price on crime, as an employee and member of the Senior Management Group of the Probation Service, and withdrew from the Chamber during discussion of the item.

Councillors Arnold and Long declared personal interests on the urgent agenda item, Building Schools for the Future Programme, as they both had children attending schools affected by government announcements, which did not preclude them from speaking or voting on that item.

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

The following petitions were submitted:-

(a) **Councillor Akhtar – Flood Defence Alignments for the Meadows**

Councillor Akhtar submitted a petition to the Lord Mayor on behalf of 1,400 local residents, seeking to raise and extend the existing flood wall instead of removing many trees and metres of hedgerow and the creation of earth embankments on the Meadows Recreation Ground.

(b) **Councillor Bull – Objections to the opening of a Tesco Express on Alfreton Road**

Councillor Bull submitted a petition to the Lord Mayor on behalf of local businesses objecting to the opening of a Tesco Express on Alfreton Road. The petition contained 9 signatures.

## **Public Question**

The following public question was received from Mr Heason:-

Why doesn't Homelink consider medical grounds when requests are made to move to a property that would be more easily accessible?

Councillor Liversidge replied as follows:-

Nottingham Homelink is the choice based letting scheme which Nottingham City Homes manage on behalf of Nottingham City Council, and 11 partner Registered Social Landlords. Nottingham City Council's allocations policy, which has six bands, is used to decide how urgent an application's priority is. Applicants are then placed into a band according to those needs.

Nottingham City Homes does have a medical re-housing procedure which is a procedure to deal with applications for priority re-housing on medical grounds. Consideration for priority re-housing on medical grounds is not about whether or not someone has a medical condition, or the severity of that condition, but how their mobility within their home or access to their home is affected due to their condition or mobility problem.

Applicants are able to complete a medical form which is dealt with by the medical referrals officer. Usually a home visit is carried out to enable an assessment on how the condition/mobility problem affects the applicant's ability to move and gain safe access to their home. Applicants who are awarded a medical priority to move will be placed in band 2 – urgent needs, for alternative accommodation that meets their needs. They are supported through the bidding process by the medical referral officers until they are re-housed. Applicants who apply on medical grounds who are not awarded this priority are also informed of other housing options available.

## **15 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 14 June 2010, be confirmed and signed by the Lord Mayor, subject to the inclusion in minute 4 of Councillor Culley's amendment to delete references to Honorary Alderman Grace Roberts being the Leader of

**the City Council's Conservative group in minute 7 of the meeting held on 10 May 2010.**

## **16 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chief Executive reported the following communications:-

### **Public Private Finance (PPF) Awards**

The BSF team had won another accolade after being recently named 'Best Education Project' at the PPF awards 2010 and scooping the prestigious 'Projects Grand Prix' award.

### **Ken Coates**

Last month saw the death of a former MEP for Nottingham, Ken Coates. Ken lived and worked in the City for many years, tutoring in adult education and working as a local coal miner in the north of the County where he developed his interest in politics. Ken served for 10 years as an MEP from 1989 and will be missed by many in the City.

Councillor Edwards paid tribute to Ken Coates and the work he had undertaken for the people of Nottingham and Europe.

The Council stood in silence as a tribute to his memory.

## **17 NET PHASE TWO LAND ACQUISITIONS**

The Deputy Lord Mayor took the chair for this item as the Lord Mayor vacated the chamber due to his personal and prejudicial interest declared earlier on the agenda.

The report of the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Area Working, as set out on pages 167 to 177 of the agenda, was submitted.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Urquhart, seconded by Councillor Edwards and by a majority of the Council, as required by section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972:-**

- (1) that an application be made by the Council for an Order ("the Amending Order") to be made by the Secretary of State for Transport under the Transport and Works Act 1992 to amend the Nottingham Express Transit System Order 2009 so that (i)**

the City Council can compulsorily open space land in Chilwell required for the purposes of NET Phase Two (“the Open Space Land”); (ii) the exchange land (the “Exchange Land”) intended to be provided in place of the Open Space Land (and other land) has to be laid out to the satisfaction of Broxtowe Borough Council; and (iii) the Exchange Land will vest in The Nottinghamshire County Council rather than in Broxtowe Borough Council;

- (2) that an application be made by the Council to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for a certificate to be given as to the suitability of the Exchange Land (“Exchange Land Certificate”) under section 19 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981;
- (3) that, subject to the above, the Director, NET, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Area Working, may take all such steps as may be necessary to carry the above resolutions into effect, including all those steps required for the Council to apply for and thereafter promote its applications for the Amending Order and an Exchange Land Certificate, including dealing with any objections to the applications, entering into agreements or commitments in relation to them and conducting any public inquiries that may be called; and;
- (4) that the corporate seal of the City Council may be affixed to any documents required to be sealed in connection with the applications for and subsequent promotion of the Amending Order and an Exchange Land Certificate.

The Lord Mayor resumed the Chair.

## **18 ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS – BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE (BSF)**

The Lord Mayor was of the opinion that this item, although not included on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the implications of the Government’s announcement on the

BSF programme and impact of which were so significant that they warranted urgent consideration by the meeting.

The report of the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services setting out the position in Nottingham following the most recent announcement by the Secretary of State for Education on Monday 5 July 2010, was submitted.

MOVED by Councillor Long, by way of amendment, and seconded by Councillor Morley:-

### **Delete**

- 2.1 This council calls on the Government to reverse the decision to 'stop' the funding for the schools included in Wave 5.
- 2.2 This council resolves that it will use all measures possible to secure funding for Building Schools for the Future and instruct the Chief Executive to use legal action where necessary.
- 2.3 This council notes that this funding cut will not only disappoint school staff, governors, pupils and their families and hamper school improvement in Nottingham, but will also have a detrimental effect on the Nottingham economy.

### **Insert**

- 2.1 This Council notes: the inefficient processes imposed by the BSF programme, the decision to 'stop' funding for the BSF programme, the fact education capital spending is being kept within the envelope outlined by the last Government so that there are no reductions beyond those the Treasury had budgeted for, and the review that has been set up to drive down costs, get buildings more quickly and have a higher proportion of money going directly to the frontline.
- 2.2 This Council calls on the Government to ensure (a) the review is undertaken as swiftly as possible to reduce the period of uncertainty and (b) that funding for existing poor buildings is the highest priority.
- 2.3 This Council notes that potential changes in funding will unsettle school staff, governors, pupils and their families and long delays will hamper school improvement in Nottingham. That any reduction in

overall education spending in Nottingham may also have a detrimental effect on the Nottingham economy.

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

**RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Mellen, seconded by Councillor Chapman, that this council:-**

- (1) calls on the Government to reverse the decision to ‘stop’ the funding for the schools included in Wave 5;**
- (2) resolves that it will use all measures possible to secure funding for Building Schools for the Future and instruct the Chief Executive to use legal action where necessary;**
- (3) notes that this funding cut will not only disappoint school staff, governors, pupils and their families and hamper school improvement in Nottingham, but will also have a detrimental effect on the Nottingham economy;**
- (4) notes that school Headteachers and governors heard that their scheme had been cancelled through the media, that the list of schools affected was incorrect and that even after several corrections, the funding position for schemes at Nottingham Bluecoat School and Woodlands School remains unclear;**
- (5) recommends that the Nottingham Schools for the Future Team continue to have detailed discussions with PfS in order to maximise the opportunity to access funding for the schemes classified as ‘stopped’ and to recoup money already expended on these schemes;**
- (6) continues to develop with the Local Education Partnership those schools that have been categorised as unaffected and to seek urgent discussions with regard to the school categorised as ‘for discussion’;**
- (7) agrees that all work on schemes categorised as ‘stopped’ be frozen until the funding position is resolved.**



## **19 ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**RESOLVED that the order of business be varied to enable agenda item 10 to be considered as the next item of business to allow outside speakers to address Council.**

## **20 MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR PRICE – REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS**

Prior to debate on this item, a number of representatives from organisations across the City addressed Council on the work they carried out for the rehabilitation of offenders:

Mark Taylor, Steve Cooke and Judi Apafi – Probation Service  
Julie Leigh – Head of Partnerships, HMP Nottingham  
Chris Langstaff – Director, Nottingham City Homes  
Allan Shaw – Darley Consultants Ltd  
Diane Fortescue – Head of Learner Services, South Nottingham College

Moved by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Culley:-

"The City Council is aware that crime and criminal behaviour blight the lives of many people in our City. We will work closely with the Police and other agencies to fight crime and ensure that those who commit crime are caught and punished through the Criminal Justice system.

The City Council notes the expansion of HMP Nottingham and its designation as a community prison.

The City Council notes the award winning work of Nottingham Probation Service and Pals in our community.

The City Council also recognises that the rehabilitation of offenders is a vital part of the process that will make Nottingham a safer City, that currently 70% of those who are in prison go back again, and we need to work with others to help reduce that figure to 60% by supporting the pathways to a crime free life for the benefit of us all.

The City Council acknowledges it has a role in the rehabilitation of offenders and recommends that:

- Nottingham City Council champions the employment of ex-offenders by offering guaranteed interviews to suitably qualified, risk-assessed ex-offenders via the Probation Service. In addition the City Council should aim to reserve a specified number of vacancies for offenders and ensure that this number is reported to the Council on an annual basis;
- the Council works with the Probation Service to ensure that Community Payback schemes are used to carry out work in communities, such as repairs to property and community facilities, in order to maximise community benefit and help re-integrate offenders into mainstream society;
- the Council encourages other agencies, such as Nottingham City Homes, to use community pay back to repair facilities, for example council houses, and request that Nottingham City Homes reports to the Council its involvement in the rehabilitation of ex-offenders on an annual basis;
- the Council explores opportunities for communities to benefit from prison industry in the manufacture of street furniture and playground equipment;
- the Council ensures that existing Adult and Community Learning and Family Learning programmes and other City Council policies dovetail with those programmes provided especially for offenders."

MOVED by Councillor Collins by way of amendment and seconded by Councillor Dewinton:-

Paragraph 1:

After "aware that" insert "despite all recorded crime having almost halved since June 2003,"

After "other agencies" insert "to continue"

Paragraph 4:

Delete "to 60%"

Paragraph 5:

After "offenders and" insert ",where possible, within sharply declining budgets and without undermining existing jobs and businesses,"

Bullet point 1:

Delete the whole paragraph.

Bullet point 2:

Delete “works” and insert “continues to work”

Delete “, such as repairs to property and community facilities,” and insert “and encourages other agencies, such as Nottingham City Homes, to use community pay back,”

Bullet point 3:

Delete the whole paragraph

Bullet point 4:

Delete “in the manufacture of street furniture and playground equipment.”

Bullet point 5:

Leave unchanged.

The meeting adjourned.

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

Moved by Councillor Long, seconded by Councillor Foster:-

The substantive motion be further amended as follows:-

Reinstate the following text into the motion after “The City Council acknowledges it has a role in the rehabilitation of offenders and recommends that:”:

“Nottingham City Council champions the employment of ex-offenders by offering guaranteed interviews to suitably qualified, risk assessed ex-offenders via the Probation Service.”

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

**After further discussion the substantive motion was put to the vote and the Council RESOLVED that:**

**The City Council is aware that despite all recorded crime having almost halved since June 2003 that crime and criminal behaviour blight the lives of many people in our City. We will work closely with the Police and other agencies to continue to fight crime and ensure that those who commit crime are caught and punished through the Criminal Justice System.**

**The City Council notes the expansion of HMP Nottingham and its designation as a community prison.**

**The City Council notes the award winning work of Nottingham Probation Service and Pals in our community.**

**The City Council also recognises that the rehabilitation of offenders is a vital part of the process that will make Nottingham a safer City, that currently 70% of those who are in prison go back again, and we need to work with others to help reduce that figure by supporting the pathways to a crime free life for the benefit of us all.**

**The City Council acknowledges it has a role in the rehabilitation of offenders and where possible, within sharply declining budgets and without undermining existing jobs and businesses recommends that:**

- the Council continues to work with the Probation Service to ensure that Community Payback schemes are used to carry out work in communities, and encourages other agencies, such as Nottingham City Homes, to use community payback in order to maximise community benefit and help re-integrate offenders into mainstream society;**
- the Council explores opportunities for communities to benefit from prison industry;**
- the Council ensures that existing Adult and Community Learning and Family Learning programmes and other City Council policies dovetail with those programmes provided especially for offenders.**

## **21 QUESTIONS**

### **Number of Police Officers in Nottinghamshire**

The following question was asked by Councillor Sutton of the Chair of the Police Authority:-

Why is Nottinghamshire Police so top-heavy that independent studies show it could have 50 more PCs if it had the same number of senior officers as comparable forces?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:-

The potential imbalance in the rank mix for Nottinghamshire Police was identified in a recent study as part of a value for money exercise by the force itself. Although the greatest imbalance was actually found at the rank of sergeant, rather than at more senior grades as Councillor Sutton suggests. The force is currently restructuring, and the findings of the study are being used to inform this. The result is likely to be fewer sergeants and senior officers, bringing the rank balance more into line with other most similar forces. Of course I'd like to be able to give a commitment that as the force addresses these and other issues identified in the recent capability review, the savings would be reinvested in front line policing.

However, with Councillor Sutton's Tory government requiring a £2 million in year saving, that won't be the case. Indeed, that £2 million cut is roughly what it costs to employ 50 PCs. Furthermore, the force is now beginning to plan for a cut in current expenditure of around 25% based on Home Office advice and the Lib Dem/Tory Government policy expenditure projections. With a budget of as I've already mentioned, £208 million, this could mean cuts of around £50 million over the next three years. With a police constable costing between £40,000 and £45,000 a year to employ, that's the equivalent of around 1,200 fewer police officers on our streets and in our communities.

As Chair of the Police Authority, I can assure the public and Members here that my colleagues at the Authority and in the Police Force will do everything we can to minimise the impact of these unnecessary and damaging cuts in Police Budgets by Councillor Sutton's Tory Government. We will work to ensure that the Force is as efficient and as cost-effective as possible and to ensure that crime continues to fall, with the rate of decline increasing. Of course, whether this will be possible with significantly fewer staff remains to be seen. In the circumstances perhaps Councillor Sutton might address his concerns about policing, the use and availability of resources, and performance, to the Tory Ministers both inside and outside his party, since I suspect that their decisions on these matters will have far more impact on policing in Nottinghamshire than mine.

### **Building Schools for the Future Programme**

The question from Councillor Morley to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services was withdrawn.

## Evening Meetings

The following question was asked by Councillor Culley of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

'Does the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree with me that there is an equality and diversity case for holding at least one of the Council's scrutiny meetings in the evening?'

Councillor Dewinton replied as follows:-

I have consistently worked hard on equality and diversity issues both within and outside the Council, and taken a lead in scrutiny on this issue. We have had discussions on equalities issues in 2010, as you're probably aware, at various meetings including a discussion of the Council's equalities framework at the February wellbeing scrutiny meeting, where we raised the need for a consistent and timely approach to equality impact statements, including the involvement of Councillors.

In June these concerns were further followed up in discussion with Councillor Ahmed and recommendations are being taken to the Executive Board, again regarding the equality impact assessment process and the need for voluntary and community sector involvement at an early stage. At our first call-in in February the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended the executive work on improving processes for asset transfer in the community sector, making evident and transparent equality impact statements and consultation improvements with the third sector. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee further considered One Nottingham's fairness proposal for a Fairness Commission at its May and June meetings, and will scrutinise the work of the commission on a regular basis.

Before every wellbeing scrutiny meeting and the Overview and Scrutiny meetings, the chairs hold a pre-meeting for members at which relevant issues are discussed, and this would have been an opportunity to put forward other relevant questions such as the timings of committees to meet equality and diversity needs. It is perhaps regrettable that the opposition unfortunately is frequently unable to attend these pre-meetings and has not raised issues such as this question previously with myself as chair. I am extremely open to any suggestions to improve our accessibility to the community, the voluntary sector, the third sector, or indeed any action which may achieve greater involvement of any

vulnerable group on equalities grounds. I will ensure that we have tabled some discussion time at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to discuss timings of these meetings and possible equalities impact. To date, we have discussed at all the committees in which I have been involved the need for consideration of equalities issues and diversity issues, particularly during the planning of reviews, but also in the ongoing work of committees. For instance, we have gone out into the community to meet with community groups and forums in the evening during our review of dentistry and community policing.

During our reviews of employability and training, we have involved voluntary and community service providers on the panel itself. We similarly achieved a round table discussion where the executive and third sector providers were able to discuss together issues to move forward our commissioning framework. We are currently working with the Community and Equalities Forum both in our work on the City's equalities framework and on individual issues such as design features in our Big Wheel transport planning in the City Centre. Our officers will consult with service providers and service user groups to find the best venue and timing for any meeting or consultation involving outside stakeholders and in fact, you may be aware that Young Nottingham Scrutiny Committee already meets later in the afternoon in order to facilitate representatives from outside agencies.

In addition, we are aware within the scrutiny function of the drive as now to provide both transparency to our Council process and partners' processes through scrutiny and to involve further service users, providers and residents as much as possible in our work. We are therefore looking closely at appropriate venues for scrutiny to ensure they are accessible, not just in the groups we work with, but with regards to transport issues for community representatives or residents who currently have found the Council House accessible from all parts of the City. Notwithstanding this, there are occasions when we go out to meet with service providers and service user groups in the community where they will be more at ease to talk with us. There is no magic bullet regarding equalities, but I will continue to work with chairs and other members to make our process as accessible as possible.

### **Moving Council House tenants**

The following question was asked by Councillor Williams of the Portfolio Holder for Housing Delivery and the Voluntary Sector:-

Would the portfolio holder for Housing Delivery and the Voluntary Sector comment on the recent proposals to encourage council house tenants to move in search of jobs? What are the practicalities of uprooting tenants in this way?

Councillor Liversidge replied as follows:-

The current Tory Government is drawing up plans that will help to distribute unemployment more evenly across the country, their words, and make it easy for people on low incomes to travel to do a job. The Works and Pensions Secretary has stated that he does not expect people to relocate to different parts of the country but that where work was available say some 15 miles away, then support would be at hand to take advantage of the opportunity.

This Council believes in offering tenants the opportunity to move or transfer elsewhere should they wish to in order to take opportunities, however, the Council doesn't believe that a policy of uprooting people from their community and support networks will achieve the necessary outcomes.

We do need to understand how it will work for local people who are used to taking low paid jobs, and who find it difficult to commit to moving to another part of the City, never mind another town 15 miles away. We also need to understand how it will sell the scheme to Nottingham people who have been waiting for a move for some time, to have someone from outside Nottingham come in and get above them on the housing register. Also we need to know where we will get the extra houses to give people moving with the work. It is obvious that where jobs are, there are going to be the places with more pressure on social housing, therefore longer waiting lists. The lack of provision of course could be alleviated by the Tories plan to remove security of tenure. In their manifesto, and not denied by Grant Shapps recently, Grant Shapps the Tory Housing Minister, this will be freeing up houses, possibly, but creating sink estates.

We would welcome a policy to establish a more local approach to improving incomes and job opportunities for Nottingham City households. The Council would wish to extend schemes such as Local Jobs 4 Local People to deliver economic recovery locally.



Locally, through Council intervention, we had committed to provide 1,000 jobs in Nottingham and to date 900 people are in work and 100 under offer. We have maintained our capital investment in infrastructure as a tool for creating jobs, training and apprenticeships opportunities.

Through our BSF programme we have kept the city working and created jobs including 58 apprenticeships and where we were able, we have used local companies to deliver the programme.

The Warm Secure Modern Programme run by Nottingham City Homes has set up a 'one in a million' scheme, where one apprenticeship is created for every £1m spent, so far 60 trainees have completed the scheme.

This is ill-thought out and we are waiting to see how they are going to make it work, because it's going to be incredibly difficult and it's going to set neighbour against neighbour.

### **Cancellation of pilot to provide free school dinners**

The following question was asked by Councillor Packer of the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services:-

Could the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services tell members, what is the impact of the cancellation of the pilot to provide free school dinners?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:-

The opportunity to be considered for this exciting pilot scheme, which would have given free school meals to all Nottingham primary aged children, came earlier this year. Following pilots in other parts of the country which were showing encouraging results, the government was offering a few other local authorities the opportunity to participate in a pilot for a year. Nottingham City Council expressed an interest in February and this was accepted. The scheme, funded at just over £6 million, was 50% funded by government, and as a local authority we were required to find £3 million of matched funding.

As part of our expression of interest we had support from NHS Nottingham, who were keen to get involved in an innovative project that would address some of the targets that they faced, and we had the support of the head teachers and governors of the Schools Forum, which

pledged just under £1 million from the head room in the schools budget towards the matched funding required. Why were we interested in participating in this pilot? Well we have an issue with childhood obesity in the City, 23% of our children aged 11 are categorized as obese. This is due to a number of causes: a more sedentary lifestyle, lack of exercise, but also because of a lack of balanced diet for some, and a reliance on fast food lacking in nutrition for others. Some children whose parents were on benefits and on very low incomes have always been entitled to free school meals and still will be, despite the cancellation of this pilot.

The qualification for free school meals requires application and means testing, and for those on low incomes just above the threshold for entitlement to free school meals, the cost of meals for perhaps two or three children is prohibitive and a sandwich lunch is a cheaper option. Applying for free school meals status is hampered by stigma and form filling, and it is well known that not all children who are entitled to this benefit have parents who are able or willing to complete the application. School meals during the lifetime of the last government, and the intervention of Jamie Oliver, have improved in standards and nutritional value, but, sadly, the less nutritional white bread with processed ham and a chocolate bar in a lunch box is more affordable for hard pressed families, and of course this does not provide children with the balanced meals they deserve.

Teachers across the City will also testify to the effects that an E-number filled packed lunch has on children's behaviour in a detrimental fashion, an inability to concentrate following the lunch break. The pilot schemes in Hull and Bolton, at an early stage, have already shown that a hot nutritious meal for every child has brought positive effects on children's alertness, behaviour and achievement, and that the willingness to eat more fruit and vegetables as part of their school lunch has also had the side effect of families buying healthier foods at home. So this universal opportunity for Nottingham children would have enabled us to advance our Early Intervention approach, giving every child a hot nutritionally balanced meal at lunch time, helping us to address our issues of healthy weight, enabling all our children to be ready for afternoon learning, and if the pilot schemes were to be replicated, increasing standards in our schools. The cancellation of this pilot might save the new government some £3 million, unfortunately the issues of childhood obesity and the consequences for their health now, and in later life, might well be a lot more expensive to the country than £3 million.

## **Effect of June budget on levels of employment**

The following question was asked by Councillor Edwards of the Portfolio Holder for Employment and Skills:-

From figures sourced from HM Treasury, how might levels of unemployment in Nottingham be affected by the national budget announced in June?

Councillor Ahmed replied as follows:-

The Lib/Con Coalition Government held an emergency Budget on 22nd June 2010. In the budget, the Government announced its intention to eliminate the structural deficit by 2014-15 and bring the total deficit down from £149bn to £37bn. This budget assumed that most Departments face an average real cut of around 25%, there are rumours of between 25% and 40%, in funding over the next four years.

This followed the announcement of £6.2bn cuts for this financial year which were announced in late May. Approximately 20% of these savings were to be funded in 2010-11 through reductions to individual grants to Local Authorities.

The recent Office for Budget Responsibility predictions following the emergency budget indicate as a result of these cuts public sector employment is predicted to reduce by 610,000 (11%) over the next five years.

While it is difficult to predict the exact level by which employment will be affected in the city, we anticipate a number of ways the employment level will be impacted, such as impact on employment and direct impact on public sector employment.

Cities like Nottingham are particularly exposed to public sector cuts because a) the concentration of population means they need a high concentration of public services, and their size and access to labour means they are often the location of services serving larger areas or performing specialist roles. In the City of Nottingham:

- approximately 44,300 residents are employed in the public sector;

- approximately 69,500 public sector jobs are located within the City, of course this takes on board the people who commute to the City;
- since the start of the recession, Nottingham has seen a rise in JSA claimants of just over 5,000 (from July 2008 to Feb 2010); there has been a slight fall since Feb 2010;
- in addition to jobs at hospitals, the police and Nottingham City Council, Nottingham is also home to national and regional public sector services such as HM Revenue and Customs which employs approximately 2,000 jobs, EMDA, over 200 jobs, Driving Standards Agency, 250, and the National College for School Leadership, approximately 230.

We have, of course, heard since that the over 200 jobs at EMDA are at risk and now those people would have seen the news in the local newspaper that the Government Office for the East Midlands is also probably going to be moving with the loss of 150 jobs in Nottingham.

Councillors will be aware that much of the focus of the various budget announcements have been in relation to reducing regional structures and quangos which I've just mentioned such as EMDA and GOEM. An estimate using the OBR predictions would put up to 7,000 public sector jobs in the city at risk.

The second one is Employment schemes. The announcement that there will be no further phases to the Future Jobs Fund programme represents a particular loss to Nottingham, following successful implementation and extension of the current scheme which is now close to providing 1,000 jobs, and this was of course supplemented by Nottingham job fund by another 90 jobs.

The other elements of the Nottingham Job Plan would have actually delivered around 2,000 jobs. Only this afternoon, Lord Mayor, I was briefed on the latest figure for May of this year and we have seen in the City the largest fall of unemployment of 535 people, and this is the largest fall since 1997. Now, of course, this fall is as a result of our direct intervention and a number of employment related schemes which we, the Nottingham City Council, have initiated and championed in the City. This particular fall, of course, also is pleasing because one of the groups is 18-24 year olds. Of course we are worried that the lone parents income and support reduction and that is going to have an impact in coming months on the jobs for the lone parents.

Capital Schemes - as part of the package of measures to reduce the deficit a number of capital schemes have been cancelled or deferred which will also have an impact on the employment level of those working on the schemes but also because these have been used to secure training and apprenticeship opportunities and of course the Members have been discussing this afternoon one example which is Building Schools for the Future programme, and there are, of course, a number of other such schemes in the City.

Indirect impact - the cuts will have a further indirect impact on employment levels in the private sector, because of decreases in the purchase of supplies and consultancy. Estimates typically put the 'multiplier effect' of public sector spending at between 1.6 and 2 i.e. a further 60-100% of money is generated in the local economy through some of these contracts. And of course we'll have to wait and see what impact this will have on the Public Sector confidence in the City.

Lord Mayor, two other budget announcements which we're aware of were the freeze of child benefit for three years and also the hike in VAT. These are both going to hit ordinary and poor people's pockets directly, and, in fact, consumer confidence. It will hit the tills in supermarkets, pubs and pumps. It will punish the poorest most. It could trigger a sharp rise in inflation, and, therefore, higher interest rates, which could lead to a double-dip recession. This could push the unemployment further up in the City.

Lord Mayor, I'm convinced that the Lib/Con attempt to cut the deficit is going to make the state of the jobs market worse than it would have been otherwise. Cutting public sector spending too quickly and too deeply will mean that there are fewer jobs and therefore fewer tax-payers who are able to finance the debt over the medium term. There are already serious concerns over the lack of jobs for graduates, but the real pain will be felt by the lower paid end of the market. Nottingham City will be affected, I think, and will be worse off if it all goes on. What is the City Council going to be doing about it? Nottingham City Council's response to the Government's announcement is basically that Nottingham City Council and its partners remain committed to delivering the Nottingham Plan and to tackle poverty and deprivation by getting more local people into good jobs. The council has, therefore, put in place, or is developing, a number of measures to try and mitigate the impact of the Budget on local employment levels, including:

- minimising Nottingham City Council redundancies by holding vacancies for redeployment;
- ensuring that the resilience support available to the private sector last year (for example welfare advice, redundancy support, job matching) are now focusing towards public sector employees which last year we did with the private sector;
- the Invest in Nottingham team will need to be proactively targeting central government departments whose requirements match the city's existing skills and labour market base to provide employment opportunities;
- the Council's Economic Development Service will continue to work to stimulate private sector business and employment growth in the key sectors of the city economy with a particular focus on Science and Technology, Creative Industries, Construction and High Level Manufacturing;
- lobbying with the Core Cities to maintain investment in cities and ensure we have financial mechanisms to raise funds to invest in infrastructure.

## **Cancellation of free swimming**

The following question was asked by Councillor Klein of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Customers:-

What is the impact of the cancellation of free swimming for under 16's and over 60's?

Councillor Trimble replied as follows:-

The recent Government announcement of the removal of free swimming will have a significant impact on the citizens of Nottingham.

We know that since the scheme commenced:

- over 12,000 under 16's have enjoyed free swimming totalling around 75,000 visits. This has nearly doubled our normal attendance figures at our city pools;
- nearly 2,000 people aged 60 and over have also benefited from the scheme with nearly 45,000 visits to our pools;
- in total, the scheme has provided around 120,000 free swims to the young and old in our City.

It took swimming pools back to the glory days, when you had to wear coloured wrist bands with time limits as introduced during the school holidays, and included queues to get in.

Alongside the removal of the free swimming grant, the government has also removed the free swimming lesson funding, which offers adults who cannot swim the opportunity of free lessons. This provides a valued life skill that many adults were able to gain that they couldn't gain at a younger age. This has been particularly well received in the city and every course we have operated has been full. The funding for 2010/11 would have set up 200 courses with around 2,000 adults learning to swim for free.

The removal of the grant funding so quickly also means that children in the city will get free swimming up to 31st July but then have to pay for swimming throughout the rest of the school summer holidays. For young people, the timing couldn't have been worse. The Sports and Olympics Minister has just abruptly taken it away, he didn't even bother to think "how can I alleviate for this for young people". Maybe he could have taken it to the end of the school holidays for instance, not a bit of it. And the Lib Dems are complicit in that too. It's not just them, it's you too, you are part of this decision.

One of the objectives of the original funding was to support the increase in physical activity levels and this has certainly been the case, but the sharp and arbitrary removal of the funding will reduce both young people and older people's physical activity levels across the city and we will no doubt see a decline in the usage of our pools. It will also see a decline in healthy activity. Both the government and health professionals regularly tell us to get people moving. Indeed, the Evening Post ran a huge amount of coverage on health, "Get Nottingham Moving" campaign just a week or so ago. Councillor Klein, as a very experienced health practitioner, knows all of this only too well. Our own physical activity strategy of getting more people more active more often, is solidly based on government and health advice. In particular, trying to get young people away from their electronic games, as well as getting older people off the sofas, settees and armchairs, and getting them moving around. Swimming is the perfect activity for that, especially good for older people, as it is an activity which they can do as gently or as vigorously as they like. In terms of doing what it said on the tin, this scheme did exactly that. The Sport and Olympics Minister, Hugh Robertson, described the scheme as "a luxury that could no longer be afforded". I believe he is

short-sighted, and down the line we will see it being paid for out of health budgets, only at that time the costs will be far greater, and be much less palatable.

## **22     ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**RESOLVED** that the order of business be varied to enable agenda item 9 to be considered as the next item of business with consideration of item 8 as the last item of business.

## **23     REVIEW OF THE STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

The report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change as set out on pages 184 to 187 of the agenda, was submitted.

**RESOLVED** in the absence of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change, on the motion of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Smith, that the release of the draft statement for public consultation be approved.

## **24     CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2010-2014**

The report of the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, as set out on pages 178 to 183 of the agenda, was submitted.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillor Mellen, seconded by Councillor Ibrahim, that the Children and Young Peoples Plan 2010-14 be approved as the basis for the Council's work with partners to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

The meeting concluded at 9.20 pm



**Council Question requiring a written response**

The following response was circulated to all members of the City Council on 6 August 2010:

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

“Can the portfolio holder assure me that we are doing all we can to support local musicians when providing performers at events such as parades and marches?”

Councillor Trimble replied as follows:-

The Council and its partners provide an extensive range of music events offered throughout the City, be this through our extensive events programme, concerts in parks and through parades undertaken in the City. The Council’s own promotions provide an extensive range of opportunities for both audiences and local musicians alike to showcase their talents in the City, on stages and at events such as ‘One World Event’, ‘City Pulse’, ‘Riverside Festival’ and ‘Splendour’ often alongside internationally renowned performance artists and acts.

In many of our directly promoted events, the Arts and Events Team look to create opportunities for local acts through providing additional stages, such as stages provided for Arboretum Records in Trinity Square as part of the City Pulse event and by working in partnership with organisations such as Rock City and BBC Radio Nottinghamshire at Splendour.

Similarly the Bands in the Parks season also looks to showcase local brass bands alongside other regional brass bands, many of which contain Nottingham based brass band musicians.

In the case of parades and marches that occur in the City, such as Military Parades, Scouts, Pride or St Patrick’s Day, in the main most of these are arranged by local community organisations, with the Council’s role being to help advise and facilitate on technical and safety issues but we know many local young people do participate in these type of activities.

In the case of St George's Day where the Council does become more directly involved in the Parade, we always seek to ensure that the two bands supporting this event are drawn from local young people provided by the City's Schools or its Scouting organisations to become involved.