

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Nottingham,

on Monday 7 March 2011 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

73 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Foster, Heppell, A Khan, Johnson and Munir.

74 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Ahmed declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – the Budget 2011/12, as he was involved in a number of voluntary organisations, either as a Council appointed representative or in a voluntary capacity, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

Councillor Ibrahim declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – the Budget 2011/12, as a representative on First Enterprise and the Muslim Community Organisation, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

Councillor Liversidge declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – the Budget 2011/12, as a Council representative on the Renewal Trust, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

Councillor Mellen declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – the Budget 2011/12, as a Council appointed member of the Management Committee of Basford Community Centre and Futures Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

Councillor Aslam declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – the Budget 2011/12, as he was involved with the Pakistan Centre Management Committee and the Asian Arts Council in a voluntary capacity, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

Councillor MacLennan declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – the Budget 2011/12, as a Council representative on the Meadows Advice Group and the Meadows Partnership Trust, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

Councillor Bryan declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – the Budget 2011/12, as a representative on First Enterprise, which did not preclude her from speaking or voting.

Councillor Chapman declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – the Budget 2011/12, as a Council representative on the Broxtowe Partnership Trust, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

Council Long declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – the Budget 2011/12, as his wife was employed by an organisation that received Council funding, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

Councillor Campbell declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – the Budget 2011/12, as a Council appointed Board member of Groundwork Trust, which did not preclude her from speaking or voting.

Councillor Malcolm declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – the Budget 2011/12, as his son was doing a one year apprenticeship with the Museum Service at Nottingham Castle, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

Councillor Dewinton declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – the Budget 2011/12, as a representative on the Dyslexia Association, which did not preclude her from speaking or voting.

Councillor Collins declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – the Budget 2011/12, as the Chair of the Renewal trust, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

75 QUESTION AND PETITIONS FROM CITIZENS

Questions from citizens

There were no questions from citizens.

Petitions from Councillors on behalf of citizens

(a) Councillor Price – Corsham Gardens Gating Order

Councillor Price submitted a petition to the Lord Mayor on behalf of 21 residents in the vicinity of Corsham Gardens for a gating order to be granted.

(b) Councillor Jones – Supporting People Programme

Councillor Jones submitted a petition to the Lord Mayor on behalf of 59 service users from Tuntum Housing Association regarding the cuts to the Supporting People Programme.

(c) Councillor Packer – Rivergreen parking issues

Councillor Packer submitted a petition to the Lord Mayor on behalf of 97 residents within the vicinity of Rivergreen, Clifton regarding parking issues on Rivergreen.

(d) Councillor Bryan – Tesco, 131 Alfreton Road

Councillor Bryan submitted a petition to the Lord Mayor on behalf of 156 residents and businesses objecting to Tesco on Alfreton Road.

(e) Councillor Ahmed – Old Vicarage mother and baby unit

Councillor Ahmed submitted a petition to the Lord Mayor on behalf of 574 service users and local residents to keep the Old Vicarage mother and baby unit open.

76 MINUTES

RESOLVED that, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Jones' attendance, the minutes of the last meeting be confirmed and signed by the Lord Mayor.

77 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Chief Executive reported the following communications:

Britain's Cleanest Big City

Nottingham had been judged cleanest big city at a national awards ceremony, beating off competition from the likes of Birmingham, Bristol, Westminster and Cardiff to win the coveted Silver Award.

The awards, organised by the Chartered Institute of Waste Management, also saw the City Council receive a 5 star commendation award for how it

achieved local cleansing priorities through working in partnership with local people.

The award was recognition of all the work by the City Council in 2010/11 to ensure the City centre and all local neighbourhoods had a high standard of cleanliness.

Truro, with a population of 18,000, won the Gold Award, with Nottingham, with a population of 280,000, the runner up.

Michael Varnam Community Award

Jean Case, a lead youth worker in Sneinton, had been awarded the Michael Varnam Community Award by Nottinghamshire Police Authority. This was an annual award given to the individual, business or voluntary organisation deemed to have introduced the most successful initiative to reduce crime in the community.

Honorary Alderman George Howe

Honorary Alderman George Howe passed away on 18 February 2011.

Honorary Alderman Howe was elected to represent the Basford ward in May 1976 and became Sheriff in 1979.

His funeral was held on 1 March at Bramcote Crematorium.

Councillors Culley, Gibson and Price also spoke about Honorary Alderman Howe.

The Council stood in silence in tribute to his memory.

78 QUESTIONS

Basford crossings

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

Would the Portfolio Holder agree with the British Transport Police that the Basford crossings are possibly the worst crossings in the country and

what measures would the Portfolio Holder advocate to remedy the problems at these crossings and also on Vernon Road?

Councillor Urquhart replied as follows:

Thank you, Councillor Newton for your question, and I'm well aware of the issues at Basford Crossings and Vernon Road and do recall accompanying you on a walkabout there some while ago to have a look at those issues.

I can't comment in specific detail about the rail aspects of Basford crossing, because those are out of our control and under the auspices of Network Rail. However, in respect of the highway issues, I can comment on safety issues at Vernon Road and the junctions in that area, and the junction of Vernon Road and David Lane.

At the junction of Vernon Road and David Lane there have been 19 casualties in the last 5 years of which 4 were serious and 15 slight, and this has, of course, resulted in investigations taking place, not only at this junction, but also along the length of Vernon Road, to see what measures might be put in place to improve the situation.

This level of accidents isn't the worst in our City, but it does warrant investigation to see what might be done. Inspections and proposals have been going on for some time, with the active involvement of the local Area Committee, and, as a consequence, we've now got the implementation of two vehicle-activated signs, refurbishment of some of the lining and use of yellow backed boards at the junction to re-enforce some of the no right or no left turn manoeuvre traffic orders. There have been discussions with Network Rail also, who are looking themselves to do some relining and upgrading of the signing which is under their control.

We have been working closely with local Councillors in the area and are continuing to investigate highway issues, and will be seeking support from the Area Committee for further improvements. And of course, interventions at this site have to be agreed with Network Rail, because some parts of the junction are within their control, rather than being solely within the control of the city as a Highway Authority, which does make taking things forward in this area slower than otherwise would be the case.

It is my view however, that if motorists obeyed the regulations that are currently in force, accidents would be likely to reduce, and there is action that we are taking to address this. The Council has been asked to express its view about taking on enforcement powers for moving traffic offences such as no right turn or no left turn. We as a council have said that yes we would like to take on those powers, and I am hopeful that they will be granted to us soon. Once we are able to take action against motorists who ignore such no right turn or no left turn signing, I would then anticipate that accident levels could reduce at this and other locations across the City, and I will of course make sure that Council is kept updated about this particular change.

Fair-trade Campaign – ‘The Great Cotton Stitch Up’

Councillor Newton asked the following question of the Leader:

Is the Leader aware that this is the international Fair-trade Fortnight and that Fair-trade sales have risen 40% over the past year breaking the £1 billion mark for the first time?

Is he also aware of the Fair-trade campaign for African cotton farmers called “The Great Cotton Stitch Up” whereby subsidies to European farmers determined by the “Common Agricultural Policy” undermines the ability of West African farmers to compete in the market place?

Would the Leader therefore write to the East Midlands Euro MP and Caroline Spelman the Minister of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, asking her to support the campaign in the forthcoming CAP negotiations?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:

Can I thank Councillor Newton for his question, and I am aware it is Fair-trade Fortnight.

Nottingham City Council is a supporter of Fair-trade, and this commitment was underlined in a motion at Full Council in June 2009.

Nottingham City Council also played its part in the success of Fair-trade Fortnight 2010 last year where we:

- organised 6 events raising the profile of Fair-trade;

- supported a City centre speakers corner event with the actor James Redmond, who is a Fair-trade ambassador and I know, Councillor Newton, that you were closely involved with that;
- took part in a Fair-trade taster evening at Broadway cinema;
- and took over 800 pledges made from City residents to start using Fair-trade products

Last year we also used the Splendour Festival to distribute flyers about Fair-trade and have also publicised Fair-trade as part of a display in the customer contact bus.

On the issue of cotton trading to which Councillor Newton refers, the Common Agricultural Policy is unfair in the way it keeps cotton farmers trapped in poverty. Over 10 million West African people rely on the cotton trade for their livelihoods. For most farmers it is the only means of income, and in West African trade, cotton makes up over 40% of export income. Nevertheless, many cotton farmers also live in poverty, surviving on less than \$2 per day.

And yet subsidies that the EU, United States and China pay to their farmers leads to over-production of cotton and, as a result, huge volumes of cotton on the world market, which drive prices down and make it difficult, if not impossible, for small scale farmers to compete.

As Councillor Newton has indicated, the opportunity to change this is now and the EU Agricultural Policy and US Farm Bills are due to go to legislation over the next 12 to 18 months.

Because of Nottingham's support for Fair-trade I would be happy to write to our MEP Glynis Willmott and to the Secretary of State Caroline Spelman MP to support the campaign to change these unfair trading rules.

Children's Centres

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

Given the seriousness of the cuts would the Portfolio Holder confirm if our Children's Centres are to remain open?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:

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

There are no plans to close any Children's Centres in the City even though the Sure Start element of the Early Intervention Grant from government has reduced significantly. Through a rationalisation of management capacity and improved alignment and commissioning of services, we have managed to protect and maintain front line service delivery from our 18 Children's Centres, which include the centre in Wollaton which opened recently and the centre in Bulwell Forest which will open shortly. We see Children's Centres as an integral part of our Early Intervention approach in the City to improving outcomes for our children and families. Maintaining our commitment to the centres is vital to our aspirations for children and young people.

Lobby of Parliament

Councillor G Khan asked the following question of the Deputy Leader:

Please can the Deputy Leader update us on the outcome of the lobby of parliament last week?

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord Mayor.

The Council arranged a lobby of parliament last week from a number of different groups, and I'd like to make three points about it.

The first point is that in some ways it was a great success, it got a number of people together with different perspectives, from young people who had lost out on EMAs (the Education Maintenance Allowance) from Aspley, people who had lost out from the Meadows with the abolition of the Meadows Housing Scheme, tenants who are likely to lose out with the reduction on the Decent Homes investment, Council workers whose jobs may in some areas be at stake, the voluntary sector which had been subject to substantial cuts, and we even had a business person who understood the implications of these reductions for the City. For most people it was the first time they'd been to the Commons. For the young people, with the exception of a trip to Skegness last year, arranged by the Area Committee, it was the first time they'd been out of Nottingham, which says something. These were young people from Aspley who had, let's say, been in difficulty, and their behaviour was impeccable.

The second point I'd like to make is to express gratitude to the Liberal Democrats who came down, because the attitude wasn't particularly pro-government or pro-Liberal Democrat, and certainly wasn't very pro-Conservative. However they did have the courage to come with us, Councillors Long and Akhtar, and it was appreciated.

The third point is if the behaviour of the young people was impeccable, the same cannot be said of the Minister of State and indeed Government MPs. We had contacted a number of Government MPs from both parties, and I believe Councillor Long had contacted people of his own party, and none of them came to see us, even though they'd had substantial notice. Indeed we either got ignored, or in fact dismissed, by Anna Soubry who decided it was all a gimmick and could not take the time to see us. But the greatest disappointment of all was reserved for Eric Pickles who is the Minister of State, who not only refused to meet us, he refused to send any representative to meet us, and when asked politely to do so by Lillian Greenwood MP, launched into an unprovoked attack on the City Council in Parliament. The approach was totally counterproductive in my view, and in particular the private sector representative and the young people, who until that point had been least politically involved, were both offended and disappointed. The upshot was that they have written to the Evening Post, with a copy to Mr Cameron, about the behaviour of the Secretary of State, who really should learn to behave better and perhaps could take some lessons from the young people from Aspley. Thank you.

At this point the Lord Mayor adjourned the meeting, having made requests to members of the public to clear the public galleries, in view of the disorder taking place. When the meeting reconvened at 5 pm, in accordance with provisions contained in the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and under common law powers, it was done so without the public present, but members of the press were in attendance.

England's Cleanest Big City

Councillor Klein asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change:

Would the Portfolio Holder care to comment on the fact that Nottingham has been recognised as England's Cleanest Big City?

Councillor Bull replied as follows:

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

Yes I'd love to comment, thank you very much for asking the question. Just to give a bit of background, last week on Wednesday, myself and a few frontline staff and managers went over to Birmingham to listen to the awards being given from the Chartered Institute of Waste Management, and back in October we decided as a council to put in a bid for their Clean Awards across the whole country. At some point between October and now their inspectors came up to the City to have a random look at anywhere in the City, and they didn't tell us where and didn't tell us when either. In my view I really hoped and expected to win an award, since we have worked extremely hard over recent years working towards that. Such things as changing how we manage the public realm, bringing the Community Support Officers much closer together with cleansing, bringing refuse stuff together with cleansing as well. We've created Neighbourhood Environmental Managers, many of the Ward Councillors would have been at their launch a year ago. We've created ward-based teams led by Ward Supervisors, and re-designed the Public Realm Teams, working when they're most needed so that they really are a 24-7 team now and we are able to work around the peaks and troughs of City life around our neighbourhoods and the City centre. We've invested in new equipment such as the 'Poover', which hopefully some of you will have seen across the City, and 'Gluttons'.

We've invested in enforcement and had real change, in my view, in how we deal with littering offences, bins on streets, fly-tipping and fly-posting, having a zero-tolerance attitude to people who litter the City and produce this rubbish in the first place. We've had new Clean Teams in every area which means that they are a one-off team that will go out and do any amount of work perhaps that residents have asked for or Ward Councillors have asked for. We've engaged the communities through the 'My Street' scheme, so we've got thousands of volunteers across the city now coming to us being a network of eyes and ears on the ground, letting us know of different issues in their neighbourhood. We've got new customer access service, a new call centre really, to deal with, more efficiently, people's problems and issues that they see in their neighbourhoods and deal with them quickly.

I think that this City is looking cleaner than ever, and so we were very pleased to pick up the award. I'll just give some background to it, and they've actually let us have some of the paperwork that they produced

after they came to the City, and I was really very proud indeed to read what they've said.

We received the silver award, the gold award went to Truro unfortunately, which although technically is a city, I'm not sure really is a comparable city, but I don't want to be too disgruntled about that.

Some of the quotes on the areas inspected. They went to:

- Hope Close and Hawthorn View, they said it was an excellent standard for a central urban social housing area, with only minor incidences of chewing gum and detritus;
- Royston Close and Clifton Miners' Welfare area, they said they had an excellent standard of cleansing presented in the area of social housing, minor deposits of chewing gum and smoking litter only;
- Victoria Embankment they described as having the standard of cleansing presented was flawless. Some minor improvements to the conditions of existing bins would enhance the scene. Signage to discourage feeding of birds to reduce litter is very useful. This site is a credit to the City Council and citizens of Nottingham;
- Central Railway Station was generally good standard presented;
- City Academy and Gregory Boulevard, which in my opinion has to be one of those most difficult areas to keep clean, They described it as a busy area on a main thoroughfare near park and ride site. A relatively small amount of litter present, but otherwise an amazingly clean site;
- Nottingham Road near Sandiccliffe Motors, minor detritus, otherwise an extremely clean street;
- Northall Road, Bulwell, some minor general litter, excellent standard of cleansing in an area of urban housing;
- shopping area, Bulwell, on a market day, this area was flawless, with the only criticism being minor defects in litter bin condition. This site is an example to all local authorities of what a clean shopping centre should look like. Nottingham City Council should be very proud of achieving this standard;
- bus station, Bulwell, apart from a very small amount of chewing gum and a very small amount of litter, this busy bus station was in near perfect condition;
- Ludforth Road, Springfield, in this urban street only small amounts of detritus prevented a perfect score.

So on a completely random day some time over the last few months, we basically received a glowing report. They had a whole range of different things we were inspected on, totalling a maximum of 1300 points and we were only just pipped to the post by Truro.

Although, of course, I know that this doesn't mean that we're a perfect City, that the City is spotless, to me it does still mean an awful lot because it means compared to all the other cities we beat Bristol, Cardiff, Birmingham, Worcester, Lincoln, Plymouth and Westminster, and that means something for us that comparable other cities did not do as well. And what speaks volumes to me is all the cities that didn't even dare to enter, because it takes some bravery really to put yourself forward for something like this, because it could have gone wrong. I didn't expect it to go wrong, but it could have gone wrong and hasn't, and only because of the tremendous work of our staff.

It's a fantastic outcome because of the political leadership we've had over this. We've had a Labour Group and Executive committed to getting the City clean and keeping the City clean and tidy. We've had sustained investment; over £3 million extra money put into this service, and doing all we can to protect the frontline service from these £60 million worth of government cuts we've got coming this year, and worse next year. We have had a relentless focus to improve, we've had a tremendous amount of training going into our managers and going into our staff as well, making sure that they understand what we mean as Members and what residents want as residents of this City and what they mean by clean, and that means gutters and alleyways clean, it means we don't accept fly-tipping, we don't accept fly-posting, we don't accept graffiti. It's hard work from the cleansing staff and the horticultural staff as well we have to thank, and the CPOs that do a tremendous job in enforcing in the City too.

Whilst I am very proud and have to thank Andy Vaughan and all of his staff, and Andrew Errington as well, and all of his staff for doing such a good job for us, and also thank the residents for being part of our volunteer network and also have to thank residents of the City for not accepting untidiness and dirt, they have set very high standards as residents of this City, and I feel that we are meeting those standards and will continue to meet those standards. Our staff are working day and night keeping the City clean, and I do hope that over the next budget period we are able to sustain the amount of investment in this service, to

make sure that we retain this award and perhaps even have the chance of beating Truro in two years' time. Thank you.

Building Schools for the Future (BSF)

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

Would the Portfolio Holder care to update us on the current position regarding BSF? Would he also care to comment on the recent outstanding Ofsted inspection for Basford Children's Centre?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:

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

As the Council will be aware, the work of rebuilding and regenerating the secondary and special schools in this City as promised and planned by the previous government falls into two waves.

In Wave 2 we have Oakfield College, Hadden Park and Bigwood Schools which have been completed, resulting in fantastic learning environments for pupils attending those three schools. In fact, I was really pleased to be at Bigwood School, along with yourself Lord Mayor, on Saturday for the annual Governors Conference, a great venue for a conference attended by over 120 Governors on a Saturday. Work is ongoing at Rosehill Special School in St Anns. In July the Secretary of State, Michael Gove, stated that the remainder of the schools in this wave which has passed through several stages of approval were unaffected. This was clearly not the case, as since then savings have had to be found from the original agreed funding packages. This we have done. So I am pleased to report that the City Council has reached an agreement with Partnerships for Schools, the Government agency responsible for Building Schools for the Future, around efficiency savings in respect of the following schools, Ellis Guilford School in Old Basford, Nethergate School in Clifton, The Bluecoat School in Wollaton and Woodlands School in Aspley. The total amount of savings is approximately £865,000 from an overall allocation of approximately £27 million.

Following the hiatus caused by the uncertainty surrounding the PfS efficiency review, the following is the estimated timetable for these

schemes, Ellis Guilford is due to start in May 2011 with construction completed in May 2013, Nethergate is starting in July this year, with construction completed, hopefully, in August next year, Bluecoat and Woodlands are due to start next year with completion in 2013 and 2014 respectively.

The Council is still in discussion with Partnership for Schools (PfS) about Farnborough which is a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Scheme. Given the complexities around a PFI contract, this scheme is up for further discussion with PfS. Unfortunately, for the families of Clifton I have to report that although we have been given the go ahead in principle for the redevelopment of Farnborough, the lack of final agreement on the funding envelope will inevitably result in further delays for the long awaited work to start here.

Coming onto Wave 5, as you are aware the Council was successful in the High Court challenge to Government over its Wave 5 schools. Following the judge's comments that the Secretary of State had been guilty of an abuse of power, failing to consult adequately with local authorities and to take equalities impact into account, correspondence has now been received from the Department for Education (DfE) following the challenge, which details the process for the consultation with the Council. The correspondence also highlights the information which is necessary for the Secretary of State to take into account when making a fresh decision, which he is bound to do. This includes information around building condition, basic need pressures, contractual liabilities, equalities impact and any school reorganisation proposals.

The timescales on responding to the DfE are quite tight and the Council has to ensure representation reaches the DfE by 5pm on 11 April 2011. In order to achieve this, officers of the Council will be undertaking the work required over the next few weeks, and just to avoid doubt, the schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) affected by the decision are:

Top Valley
Bluecoat (Aspley Lane)
Trinity
Westbury
Fernwood
3 Pupil Learning Centres
Beckhampton Pupil Referral Unit

We will of course be making every possible effort, as an Authority in partnership with our schools, to give Mr Gove and his officials all the information possible to enable him to make his decision which we hope will bring further investment to Nottingham schools.

Recent opinion survey

Councillor Ibrahim asked the following question of the Leader:

Would the Leader care to comment on the recent opinion survey of Nottingham residents' levels of satisfaction?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:

Can I thank Councillor Ibrahim for his question.

The latest opinion survey shows a continuing positive trend for Nottingham, not only are respondents increasingly satisfied with their local area as a place to live, they are also more satisfied with the way the City Council is running things. Overall satisfaction with the way the City Council runs things has increased from 60% last year to 72% this year, continuing a four year trend of improving satisfaction. Perceptions of anti-social behaviour are also decreasing in Nottingham.

Overall, the results are positive with most questions indicating an improvement on last year. So for example:

- 81% are satisfied with their local area as a place to live, up from 78% in 2009;
- 76% felt they were kept informed by the City Council; prior to 2010, this question was last asked in 2007 when 61% felt they were kept informed;
- 57% felt they could influence decisions, up from 48% in 2009;
- 89% agreed that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area, 3 percentage points higher than in 2009;
- 85% agreed that public services treat all types of people fairly, up from 78% in 2009;
- 55% felt that Nottingham City Council provides value for money, up from 50% in 2009.

I would hope that the results of this year's residents' survey reflect the progress the City has made over the last few years, and not least, the fact that Nottingham Labour has met so many of its promises made in the manifesto of the last election. Amongst the key improvements we've delivered are:

- to make Nottingham England's cleanest big city;
- to double our rate of recycling since 2006 from 18% to 39%;
- to cut crime by a quarter, in fact it's down by almost 40% since the last election;
- to improve education results with an increase in the number of school leavers getting 5+ good GCSEs, up by a third from 45% to 73%;
- to invest in every neighbourhood by rebuilding and improving schools, replacing and repairing pavements, renovating and insulating homes, and through a programme to replace street lighting across our City.

Based on external assessment, the management of the Authority has also improved significantly over the last four years, with the council judged as 3 star 'performing well' in the 2009 CAA by the Audit Commission, a Green Flag for public transport in the 2009 Area Assessment, 'performing well' for Children's Services by Ofsted, 'performing well' for Adult Services by the Care Quality Commission, and 'good' for Ofsted for our Fostering, Adoption and Child Protection services.

These are real achievements and I thank my colleagues, I thank Council officers, and all those in our partner organisations that have helped deliver these improvements over the last four years.

Consultant expenditure

Councillor Sutton asked the following question of the Leader:

Given that Nottingham is facing unprecedented cuts in its budget, how can the Leader of the Council justify spending £870 a day on employing a consultant to advise on the Labour manifesto, campaign and communications?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord Mayor.

The Council of course didn't employ a consultant to advice on the Labour manifesto, campaign and communications. Frankly, I'm quite capable with the help of my colleagues of doing that myself.

However, I will help the Councillor by explaining the role played by Regional and Local Associates. The contract agreed for work this year specified this as development and support to the Leader and Executive Councillors for the financial year 2010-11, including:

- helping Executive Councillors achieve excellence in the face of immediate and on-going public sector spending cuts;
- identify priorities and improve performance;
- develop the Executive's approach to budget setting within the scale of public sector spending cuts;
- adopt and encourage innovative approaches and new ways of thinking in order to achieve the challenges that local government faces;
- support the collation of evidence for the Councillor Development Charter in respect to the work undertaken for the development of Executive Councillors;
- provide a condensed report of consolidated feedback from development activities and the benefits of the learning and development for the Executive.

A significant part of the work undertaken over the last few years has been to help the Executive develop a systematic approach to monitoring the delivery and implementation of the manifesto Labour was elected on in 2007, and that became Council policy on 25 June 2007.

While keeping manifesto promises is clearly not a big issue for opposition parties, I believe that it's important for us to keep our promises to the Nottingham electorate, and I suspect that they also think that's important too.

The Executive Board meeting in January considered a report highlighting the progress in delivering those manifesto commitments and showed that, of the 92 promises, 74 were rated as green and achieved, 15 were rated as amber and could still be achieved, and only one rated red and unlikely to be achieved, and the promise rated red, the one that we won't

achieve, was rated red as a result of the government's decision to withdraw funding from the Meadows PFI.

Amongst the pledges that we have achieved are, and I'll repeat them again, as they are, after all, for the record:

- Nottingham is England's cleanest big city;
- we have doubled our rate of recycling since 2006 from 18% to 39%;
- crime is down by more than the quarter promised we and, in fact, is down by almost 40% since the last election;
- the number of school leavers getting 5 good GCSEs is up by a third from 45% to 73%;
- and we've invested in every neighbourhood by rebuilding and improving schools, replacing and repairing pavements, renovating and insulating homes and through a programme to replace street lighting across our City.

Based on external assessment, the management of the Authority has also improved significantly over the last four years with the Council judged as:

- 3 star, performing well in the 2009 CAA by the Audit Commission;
- a Green Flag for public transport in the 2009 Area Assessment;
- 'performing well' for Children's Services by OFSTED;
- 'performing well' for Adult Services by the Care Quality Commission;
- and OFSTED rated us good for Fostering, Adoption and Child Protection Services.

Of course, in the run up to the Council elections on May 5 I understand that this isn't in the interest of opposition parties and their friends in the press, to recognise the progress the Council and the City have made over the last four years. It's in their Party Political interests to lie, misrepresent and belittle the contribution made by all those who have helped deliver these achievements. Well, you won't be getting me to do that and I wouldn't even do it in opposition, I'm proud of this City and what we've achieved, and I'll stick up for Nottingham during these difficult times, and against all those in this chamber and the local press, whose only aim seems to be to knock the City and talk it down.

Re-tender of consultancy

Councillor Price asked the following question of the Leader:

Can the Leader assure us the council and the citizens of Nottingham that he rejected the advice of Regional and Local Associates to focus on the campaigning for the election rather than mitigating the effect on the City of the reduced grant settlement?

Can he also assure us that in the event of Labour being returned to office, he shall not be inviting this consultancy to re-tender, and that this £30,000 be spent on things more important to the people of Nottingham, rather than on the Labour elite?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:

I don't believe I have ever had that kind of advice from anybody and, while we are undoubtedly facing major challenges in dealing with his government's unnecessary, unwise and unfair £60 million cut in grant, I believe the budget we are proposing this evening shows that we have done everything possible to mitigate the effects on Nottingham.

As for the second part of his question, and given today's visit to the East Midlands by the Prime Minister, I'm tempted to suggest he might also ask Mr Cameron whether the hundreds of thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money spent employing Party Political special advisers for Liberal Democrat and Conservative ministers might be spent on things that are more important to the people of this country, rather than on a Liberal Democrat and Tory elite?

I can assure him that any decision about the development needs of members, including those of the executive, will be considered after the election and presumably by whoever makes up the administration. That work will then be tendered in the usual way and is available for contractors on the approved list to bid for.

Workplace Parking Levy (WPL)

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

In view of the concerns recently expressed by the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce, can the Portfolio Holder give a guarantee that the Workplace Parking Levy will not be increased in price, nor be extended to smaller car parks?

Councillor Urquhart replied as follows:

Thank you, Councillor Morley for your question, of course another question prompted by a Nottingham Evening Post headline, about a subject where the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce know full well the facts of the case already. So I thank you for giving me this opportunity to explain once more the situation about Workplace Parking Levy.

The recent media coverage suggesting that employers and the Chamber are concerned that prices could increase, or that we have wildly overestimated the number of liable parking spaces did surprise me somewhat, because the estimated 38,000 spaces figure is based on information provided to us by businesses, by employers, as part of the Off Street Parking Audit survey. We have done a number of OSPAs (Off Street Parking Audit surveys) over the time we've been developing WPL, we are about to begin OSPA 7. Between OSPA 5 and 6, the year before last and last year, our estimate of the number of chargeable spaces actually increased. Clearly businesses change, employers change, and we had the start of the NG2 Business Park making a significant difference. So we're about to begin OSPA 7, and no doubt that will have a slightly different figure to the 38,000.

The OSPA survey gives us figures to work with, but of course that isn't what we work out liability on, we will work out liability through the licensing process when that begins in October. So, it does surprise me that people seem to remain confused, because also, what we know is that we are actually developing some quite positive relationships with key employers throughout the City, and including discussions with the Chamber of Commerce, about the development of key communication materials and planning for October 2011, at which point Employers have to have a licence. Employers, such as the University of Nottingham, have even taken this opportunity to develop robust parking management strategies to coincide with the introduction of WPL, and of course the WPL Order, which determines the amount that Nottingham City Council can charge employers for workplace parking places, rises over the first few years and is then pegged in line with inflation, and this information

has been publicly available for some time, since we took the Workplace Parking Levy Order through Council, on a number of occasions. Those figures for cost have been publicly available now for those considerable months and even years, I suspect. Our estimations take into account employers reducing the number of parking spaces that they provide as well, and, of course, in respect of the WPL order we can't increase the price, or make changes to exemptions and discounts, including the level of spaces at which the charge is imposed, without going through further consultation and formal process, including Ministerial approval, which is a long and fairly complicated procedure. So the WPL Order is set.

Funding through the WPL of course will be raised over a number of years and has been designed to be flexible between the schemes that it funds. And just to remind everybody, the schemes that WPL will fund of course are:

- the Station Hub, where construction has already begun, a massive construction scheme starting in our City at a time when construction jobs are badly needed;
- the tram, where construction is due to begin at the end of this year;
- and the Link Bus network, providing vital links across our City.

So, because we have those three schemes, the funding is raised over a number of years and can be flexible both between schemes and years, so that if less is raised than expected in one year it can be made up for in future years. And of course the lower amounts likely to be collected in the earlier years, because the charging ratchets up, which is already well known about, have been fully incorporated into the affordability projection. If we were to assume 2.5% inflation over the life of the WPL, then by 2033/34 it would be raising £21,500,000 per year, much higher than the figure generally quoted of £14,000,000 a year, and so, of course that's because that £14,000,000 is an average over the length of time, and, of course, within that there is contingency, including an allowance for the impact of organisations choosing to reduce the number of parking spaces that they have in use.

So in terms of easing any concerns that employers may still have, we do have a robust communications and marketing plan in place, which has already seen significant levels of communications go out to employers, and will see more targeted literature sent to employers in the run-up to the start of licensing in July of this year and on into the Autumn. We have already held some meetings with large employers to begin to test some

of that communications material, to make sure that it is sufficiently clear, and we will be having further meetings of that kind in the near future, and we will of course ensure that the message about the price structure not changing without Secretary of State approval is abundantly clear.

Supporting People funding

Councillor Price asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Housing Delivery and the Voluntary Sector:

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm the amount of Supporting People money that was held in earmarked reserves in 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11?

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm that even though these funds are no longer ring fenced they will still be used for Supporting People activity and how the reserve figure for 2010/11 is going to be spent over the next three years?

Councillor Liversidge replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord Mayor, and I thank Councillor Price for his question, even though it was to Eunice who is a lot prettier than me.

Generally, in relation to this question I refer Councillor Price to the recent Executive Board budget report, with particular reference to the Supporting People Issues, and I would be happy to discuss with him any particular funding issue he may be concerned about.

The budget proposals being debated today were previously considered by Executive Board, and made provision for Supporting People in the context of a difficult overall settlement, because there is a legal challenge to the Supporting People provision within this budget, I have been advised that I should not provide detailed answers to this question at this stage.

Asbestos risk management

Councillor Morley asked the following question of the Deputy Leader:

In light of the recent court case where the Council's failure to manage risk from asbestos cost us £42,000, can the Portfolio Holder assure the

Council that we are doing all we can to ensure asbestos in our property is managed appropriately and that staff monitoring is adequate?

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:

Thank you for the question.

We do take the management of asbestos seriously and acknowledge that in this case, Woolsthorpe Depot, policies had not been followed, we got it wrong. However, we are getting to grips with the problem, and I'll explain how. Since May 2009, the following actions have taken place:

- the Council has set up a project group specifically to put in place a plan for managing asbestos at Woolsthorpe, which was reviewed and revised at regular intervals;
- asbestos log books are now in place on all Nottingham City Council sites, and they are maintained;
- viewing record sheets enable a record to be kept of all visitors and contractors who have seen and read the log book;
- since the discovery of asbestos in May 2009, Nottingham City Council has put in place an arrangement for an independent specialist contractor to make unannounced visits to Nottingham City Council's premises to ensure that the asbestos log books are up to date;
- refresher training is being provided for all managers and officers with responsibilities for the management of buildings. The training includes the procedure for implementing Asbestos Management Plans including inspection and record keeping. So, not only are we putting the processes in place, we're training people to implement the processes;
- finally, the Property Department, as corporate landlord, is making full use of software which enables all NCC sites to record and manage asbestos, including automatic alerts to Council officers for asbestos inspection and on any relevant maintenance issues.

79 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2001/12

The report of the Deputy Leader, as set out on pages 449 to 452 of the agenda, was submitted.

RESOLVED that on the motion of Councillor Chapman, seconded by Councillor Williams:

- (1) the 2011/12 Treasury Management Strategy document, including the strategy for debt repayment and the investment strategy, detailed in Annexe 1, be approved;**
- (2) the prudential indicators and limits from 2009/10 to 2013/14, detailed in Appendix A within Annexe 1, be approved.**

80 BUDGET 2011/12

The report of the Deputy Leader, as set out on pages 453 to 460 of the agenda, was submitted.

Moved by Councillor Long by way of an amendment and seconded by Councillor Sutton that:

In recommendation 2.1 (1) add after 'the revenue budget for 2011/12'

'subject to the following:

	VALUE 2011/12
that Special Responsibility Allowances are reformed and the role of Executive Assistant is discontinued with a total saving of £0.059m pa	- £0.059m
that the budget for City services in respect of Cleanest Major City is reduced by £0.900m pa (being the part reversal of the cumulative £1.207m budget increase in 2011/12 arising from the original development agreed in 2008/09 and subsequently amended in 2010/11 by the saving 118/159 Assumed Growth Funding – Street Cleanliness)	- £0.900m
that the budget for the Proud Campaign is discontinued with a saving of £0.037m pa	- £0.037m
that the budget for Serving Nottingham Better is reduced by £0.030m pa by reducing the support provided to portfolio holders	- £0.030m

that the charge for the replacement of wheeled bins introduced in 2010/11 (as part of the previous strategic choice 118/1573 Charging for the Supply of Wheeled Bins) is discontinued at a cost of £0.020m pa and that tougher criteria for the replacement of bins are introduced	+ £0.020m
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that the saving of £0.154m pa in respect of School Clothing Allowance (reference 110/2763) is rejected	+ £0.154m
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that appropriate funding is provided to ensure that the Handel Street Centre remains open at a cost of £0.315m pa	+ £0.315m
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that the appropriate budgets are increased for the following proposed investments:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| • £0.050m in respect of Occupational Therapy | +£0.050m |
| • £0.050m in respect of Community to Care | +£0.050m |
| • £0.050m in respect of Integrated Community Equipment Services | +£0.050m |
| • £0.050m in respect of minor adaptations | +£0.050m |
| • £0.075m in respect of 'one stop' sustainability advice provided by a Green Living Centre | +£0.075m |
| • £0.100m in respect to highways tree trimming | +£0.100m |
| • £0.052m in respect of other council land tree trimming | +£0.052m |
| • £0.040m in respect of better notification of licensing applications | +£0.040m |
| • £0.045m in respect of improved debt collection processes | +£0.045m |
| • £0.025m in respect of increased gritting/salt provision | +£0.025m |

TOTAL NET FINANCIAL IMPACT	NIL
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In recommendation 2.1 (2) add after 'The capital programme for 2011/12 – 2013/14'

‘subject to the following:

VALUE
2011/12

that the swimming pool on Harvey Hadden planned as part of the Leisure Transformation Programme is cancelled (saving £3.780m in 2011/12 and £5.052m in 2012/13) - £3.780m

that new schemes in 2011/12 and 2012/13 are added for:

- Carriageway/Footway Resurfacing (£3.180m in 2011/12 and £5.052m in 2012/13) +£3.180m
- Purchase Equipment for Street Cleansing (£0.500m in 2011/12) +£0.500m
- Green Living Centre (£0.100m in 2011/12) +£0.100m

TOTAL NET FINANCIAL IMPACT

NIL

And amend the following recommendations as indicated:

- In recommendation 2.1(3)(a) £950,339,189 for £950,359,189;
- In recommendation 2.1(3)(b) substitute £665,110,169 for £665,130,169;

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

Moved by Councillor Price by way of an amendment and seconded by Councillor Culley that:

In recommendation 2.1 (1) add after ‘ the revenue budget for 2011/12’

‘subject to the following:

Section 1

VALUE
2011/12

that the proposed corporate communications budget is reduced by £0.378m in 2011/12 and a further £0.730m in 2012/13 by the abolition of the Arrow, Community Arrow, What’s On, Impact and similar publications and the end of the Proud campaign and associated on-street advertising -£0.378m

that Market rents are frozen in 2011/12 at a cost of £0.054m pa	+£0.054m
that the Sports Grant Aid Schemes funding that was removed on 23 December 2010 under B delegated powers is reinstated as a cost of £0.018m pa	+£0.018m
that the funding for 5 Police Community Safety Support officers is maintained at a cost of £0.100m pa in 2011/12 and £0.141m going forward	+£0.100m
that additional provision is made for Supporting People funded from the New Homes Bonus subject to confirmation of the receipt of £1.215m in 2011/12 and £1.348m in 2012/13	£0.000m
that a specific reserve of £0.206m is created for Supporting People	+£0.206m
TOTAL NET FINANCIAL IMPACT	NIL

Section 2

It is recommended that reviews of the following areas be undertaken:

- Review the feasibility of Communications and Marketing activity being performed as a Joint Service to find significant savings.
- Further review the use of Agency Staff and Consultants with a view to reducing the use of agency staff taken on for additional work and project work in departments other than Children's Services and Adult Support and Health, including a reduction of the number of vacant posts in Resources and Development in light of expenditure of over £4m on temporary staff. Freeze expenditure and review the use of all non-Capital project based consultants.
- Explore the use of capital receipts to purchase properties currently in use by third sector providers, allowing them to continue to provide support for vulnerable people.

And amend the following recommendations as indicated:

- In recommendation 2.1(3)(a) substitute £951,520,189 for £950,359,189;

- In recommendation 2.1(3)(b) substitute £666,291,169 for £666,130,169;

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

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

(1) the following be approved:

(a) the revenue budget for 2011/12, including:

- (i) the recommendations of the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) in respect of the robustness of the estimates made for the purpose of the budget calculations and the adequacy of reserves;**
- (ii) the delegation of authority to the Deputy Chief Executive/Corporate Director for Resources in consultation with the Deputy Leader to finalise the MTFP for publication;**
- (iii) the delegation of authority to the appropriate Directors to implement Strategic Choices proposals after undertaking the appropriate consultation;**

(b) the capital programme for 2011/12 – 2013/14;

(c) a net budget requirement of £285,229,020, including the calculations required by Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (“the Act”), as set out below:

- (i) £950,359,189 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act;**
- (ii) £665,130,169 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) (a) to (c) of the Act;**
- (iii) £285,229,020 being the amount by which the aggregate at (1)(c)(i) above exceeds the aggregate at (1)(c)(ii) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year;**

- (iv) **£184,801,754 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of the estimated formula grant, reduced by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year to or from its Collection Fund;**
 - (d) **a City Council Band D basic amount of council tax for 2011/12 of £1,332.28 being the amount at (1)(c)(iii) above less the amount at (1)(c)(iv) above, all divided by the amount at (2)(c) below, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (as set out in section 5 of the report);**
 - (e) **the setting of the amount of council tax for 2011/12 at the levels described in section 5 of the report;**
 - (f) **the making of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2011/12 in the terms of the previously adopted scheme;**
- (2) the following be noted:**
- (a) **a Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority precept at Band D for 2011/12 of £69.69;**
 - (b) **a Nottinghamshire Police Authority precept at Band D for 2011/12 of £160.11;**
 - (c) **in January 2011, the City Council calculated the amount of £75,380 as its council tax base for the year 2011/12 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.**

81 OFFICER EMPLOYMENT PROCEDURE RULES

The report of the Portfolio Holder for Employment and Skills, as detailed on pages 461 to 462 of the agenda, was submitted.

RESOLVED that on the motion of Councillor Ahmed, seconded by Councillor Chapman that the Council vary Rule 2.1 of the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, for the purposes only of the appointment of the Corporate Director of Communities and the terms of reference for the Appointment and Conditions of Service Committee, to enable that Committee to offer the preferred candidate the post on terms determined by that Committee.

82 APPOINTMENT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

The report of the Portfolio Holder for Employment and Skills, as detailed on pages 463 to 464 of the agenda, was submitted.

RESOLVED that on the motion of Councillor Ahmed, seconded by Councillor Clark, that the City Council accepted the Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee recommendation and offered the post of Corporate Director of Development to David Bishop on the terms and conditions approved by the Committee.

83 CANCELLATION OF THE 11 APRIL 2011 MEETING

RESOLVED that full Council meeting scheduled for 11 April 2011 be cancelled.

84 DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE/CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

RESOLVED that delegated authority be granted to the Deputy Chief Executive/Corporate Director of Resources, in consultation with Group Whips, to establish Licensing Panels, consisting of appropriately trained Councillors, to deal with licensing applications from 5 May 2011 until appointments are made for the municipal year at Annual Council on 23 May 2011.

The meeting concluded at 9.40 pm

Council question requiring a written response

The following response was sent to all City Councillors on 14 March 2011:

Councillor Davie asked the following question of the Deputy Leader:

What are the revenue costs to the City of Nottingham of meeting the availability payments on our five largest PFI (Private Finance Initiative) schemes?

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:

The City Council currently has only 5 PFI schemes which have reached financial close. They all attract PFI grant which covers the capital investment element of the availability payments and the figures for each scheme for the current and next financial years, are shown below:

1. NET Phase 1

	2010/11 £'000	2011/12 £'000
Availability payments	22,049	22,490
<u>Less</u> PFI grant	<u>(22,630)</u>	<u>(22,630)</u>
Surplus*	<u><u>(581)</u></u>	<u><u>(140)</u></u>

*The early years' surpluses are invested and the interest earned contributes to later years when the payments exceed the PFI grant. There are no revenue elements of this schemes as running costs are covered by the fare box etc.

2. BSF (Bigwood & Oakfield schools)

	2010/11 £'000	2011/12 £'000
Availability payments	4,644	4,911
<u>Less</u> PFI grant	<u>(3,419)</u>	<u>(3,419)</u>
	<u><u>1,225</u></u>	<u><u>1,492</u></u>

These excess costs are in respect of running costs which are funded from the schools budgets or from funding allocated through the schools

forum; there are therefore no direct costs to the City Council of this scheme.

3. Street Lighting

	2010/11*	2011/12
	£'000	£'000
Availability payments	1,980	3,822
<u>Less PFI grant</u>	<u>(1,876)</u>	<u>(3,461)</u>
	<u>104**</u>	<u>361**</u>

*Part year only

** The PFI grant funds the initial 5 year lighting column replacement programme. The annual shortfall is in respect of the later years column replacements and increases in maintenance and energy costs resulting from the output specification.

4a. Mary Potter LIFT Joint Service Centre

	2010/11*	2011/12
	£'000	£'000
Availability payments	849	871
<u>Less PFI grant</u>	<u>(712)</u>	<u>(712)</u>
	<u>137*</u>	<u>159*</u>

4b. Clifton Cornerstone LIFT Joint Service Centre

	2010/11*	2011/12
	£'000	£'000
Availability payments	298	306
<u>Less PFI grant</u>	<u>(260)</u>	<u>(260)</u>
	<u>38*</u>	<u>46*</u>

The annual shortfalls are in respect of revenue "hard facilities management" e.g. minor repairs and future decorating which are not eligible for PFI grant.