

Motion in the name of Councillor Nick McDonald for September Full Council

This Council strongly supports the right of its citizens to receive legal advice, irrespective of their financial circumstances.

This Council also firmly supports the principle of law centres, which help ensure the most vulnerable in our society are treated fairly, and can be an effective form of early intervention, often saving public money.

This Council therefore deplores the Government's intention to cut the legal aid budget by over £350 million, enshrined in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill. The City Council believes that the Government's reforms are unfair, ill-targeted proposals that will deny citizens of Nottingham access to justice, and are likely to result in the closure of the Nottingham Law Centre.

The City Council will therefore:

- continue to lobby Government over the Government's legal aid reforms;
- support the Justice4All campaign;
- explore the limited ways in which it can support the Nottingham Law Centre in the future;
- find ways in which this city can ensure that its most vulnerable citizens have access to legal advice.

Councillor Nick McDonald

