

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Nottingham,

on Monday 13 February 2012 at 2.00 pm

ATTENDANCES

Councillor Wildgust		Lord Mayor	
✓	Councillor Ali	✓	Councillor Liversidge
✓	Councillor Arnold	✓	Councillor Longford
✓	Councillor Aslam	✓	Councillor McDonald
	Councillor Ball	✓	Councillor Malcolm
✓	Councillor Bryan	✓	Councillor McCulloch
✓	Councillor Campbell	✓	Councillor Mellen
✓	Councillor Chapman	✓	Councillor Molife
✓	Councillor Choudhry	✓	Councillor Morley
✓	Councillor Clark	✓	Councillor Morris
✓	Councillor Collins	✓	Councillor Neal
✓	Councillor Cresswell	✓	Councillor Norris
✓	Councillor Culley	✓	Councillor Ottewell
✓	Councillor Dewinton	✓	Councillor Packer
✓	Councillor Edwards	✓	Councillor Parbutt
	Councillor Fox	✓	Councillor Parton
✓	Councillor Gibson	✓	Councillor Piper
✓	Councillor Grocock		Councillor Saghir
✓	Councillor Hartshorne	✓	Councillor Smith
✓	Councillor Healy	✓	Councillor Spencer
✓	Councillor Heaton	✓	Councillor Steel
✓	Councillor Ibrahim	✓	Councillor Trimble
	Councillor Jeffery	✓	Councillor Unczur
✓	Councillor Jenkins		Councillor Urquhart
✓	Councillor Johnson		Councillor Watson
✓	Councillor Jones	✓	Councillor K Williams
✓	Councillor Khan	✓	Councillor S Williams
✓	Councillor Klein	✓	Councillor Wood

77 CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

In the absence of the Lord Mayor, Councillor Unczur, Sheriff, took the Chair for the meeting.

78 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ball, Fox, Saghir, Urquhart, Watson and Wildgust.

79 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Longford declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 (minute 85), Motion in the name of Councillor Mellen, as a Council appointed Director of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Futures, and a lecturer at High Pavement College, which did not preclude her from speaking or voting.

Councillor Mellen declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 (minute 85), Motion in the name of Councillor Mellen, as a Council appointed Director of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Futures, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

80 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM CITIZENS

Questions from citizens

The following questions from citizens were received:

Transport jobs

The following question was asked by Mr Martin Clough to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation:

Nottingham Labour predicts that investing £500 million on the tram will create transport jobs ("Nottingham Labour Jobs and Growth Plan", in Positive Politics from Nottingham Labour, Winter 2011-2012). My question is, what is the expected net change in the number of long-term transport jobs as a result of this investment?

There are currently 15 trams, each operated by a driver and a conductor. This will increase to 37 trams, but they will have no conductors. For

simplicity, consider the number of people directly employed while the trams are operating. This will increase from 30 to 37, 7 extra jobs. However, the trams will replace several bus services to Clifton, Beeston and Chilwell. Buses are more labour-intensive than trams, as they carry about 80 passengers rather than 200. Perhaps 40 bus-driving jobs would be lost.

A few taxi-driving jobs will go, as some people who cannot use buses may find that they can use trams.

By long-term, I mean after the construction period is over.

As I understand the £570 million investment, a labour-intensive transport mode (buses) is to be replaced by a capital-intensive one (trams). Tram conductors will be replaced by ticket machines, and 2 bus drivers will be replaced by 1 tram driver. Where are the extra jobs going to be?

My personal guess is that about 30 transport jobs will be lost as a result of this investment.

Councillor Collins, in the absence of Councillor Urquhart, replied as follows:

Thank you, Sheriff, and if I can thank Mr Martin Clough for the opportunity to highlight the positive impact of NET Phase Two and the impact that it will have locally in the City.

The positive economic benefits resulting from the extended tram network are well rehearsed. It is estimated indirectly that up to 8,000 jobs will be created across the region through the construction and procurement activity the scheme will generate. In addition, NET Phase Two will also create hundreds of long term transport specific jobs. Currently, 194 people are employed in the operation and maintenance of NET Line One. Once the network has been extended the total number of staff required increases to 270. While the total number of staff directly operating the trams will only increase from 124 to 131, due to the loss of role of conductor, the number of staff needed to manage, supervise and maintain the tram network will more than double.

Other new jobs will be created in revenue protection and passenger and system security. Tramlink is also looking to significantly improve

customer services, staffing and park and ride security patrols as part of the commitment to improving the existing service.

There is no indication, evidence or experience to support Mr Clough's suggestion that, as a result of two more tram lines, there will be fewer bus services, and that job losses will result from this. Indeed, bus companies may consider adapting routes and increasing bus frequency to complement the new tram services, for example, the City Centre currently accommodates 250 buses now, and bus stop provision is currently at capacity. The extended tram network will free up valuable City Centre road space and bus stop capacity, allowing better bus frequencies and greater reliability for services from parts of the City not served by the tram.

Sheriff, the construction of the two new lines of Nottingham's tram will bring jobs, opportunities and much needed investment to the City. It is for that reason, and the obvious public transport benefit it offers, that there is overwhelming public support for the scheme.

Nature trail – waste ground behind Roko Health Club

The following question was asked by Ms Lynn Peacock to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation:

In view of the tram utilising the nature trail through Wilford and Compton Acres, would the Council consider making the waste ground behind the Roko Health Club into a nature trail and park. This would at least ensure the residents of that area believe the Council are aware of their concerns at the loss of the natural open space and environment.

Councillor Trimble, in the absence of Councillor Urquhart, replied as follows:

Thank you, Sheriff, and can I thank Ms Lynn Peacock for her question.

Over 20% of Nottingham is green and open space; there are 8 designated local nature reserves, 10 Wildlife in the City focus sites and 2,700 allotments.

During my tenure as Portfolio Holder I am proud to have invested in excess of £20 million in our parks and open spaces, achieving 15 Green Flags, 11 Green Flag Community Awards and that doesn't include the £5

million earmarked for the Forest. In order for the Council to secure Net Phase Two, it was necessary to demonstrate, at an independent public inquiry, that any open green space land taken away for the new trams, such as the former great Central Railway Embankment would be replaced by land of equal recreational value. To achieve this, the City Council is providing a new area of green and open space south of Silverdale. It will be approximately 3 hectares in area, and will be a leisure resource for local people including those of Silverdale in Clifton. The new area will be accessible from Compton Acres by using a new footpath created along side the tram line running south of Ruddington Lane under the A52.

It will allow the creation of a wildlife reserve featuring various habitats including an open landscaped area with a network of footpaths. This means that when the new tram lines have been built local people and communities will have access to at least the same amount of green space as they had before. It is also proposed to keep the new tram corridor as a local amenity. The current embankment will be lowered to ground level in order to create space for a footpath with replanting along the tramline. This will ensure that the corridor will still be accessible to pedestrians. Although not managed as a formal area of local space, the land south of Roko is already used for recreational activities with well trodden paths created over the side. It therefore already acts as part of the open space in the local area.

Sheriff, it would be very desirable to take this opportunity to create a new nature trail and park, but given that this coalition government has forced in excess of £80 million worth of cuts on Nottingham in that last two years thus making it absolutely impossible for any new project like this to be funded locally. So whilst it's unfortunate that some land used for recreation currently has to be cleared to make way for the new tram, people living in the surrounding area will still have access to habitats of rich and diverse open green space that is ideal for recreation, as well as having an excellent and efficient new tram network.

Petitions from Councillors on behalf of citizens

Councillor S Williams submitted a petition to the Sheriff on behalf of 69 signatories objecting to the former Blueprint nightclub on Alfreton Road reopening.

Councillor Morris submitted a petition to the Sheriff on behalf of 1,642 signatories objecting to the closure of the attended toilets in Bulwell bus station.

81 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings held on 12 December 2011, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Sheriff.

82 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Chief Executive reported the following communications:

Football Development Project of the Year

On 24 January 2012 Wembley Stadium played host to the Asian Football Awards, which brought together high profile personalities from the sporting world to recognise and celebrate the achievements of UK Asians in football, from both grassroots initiatives and the professional game.

Sporting Equals, the UK's national organisation promoting ethnic diversity across sport and physical activity, sponsored the 'Football Development Project of the Year' category, and Nottingham City Council's 'Diversity Academy' were the category winners.

Sameer Patel, Sports Development Officer (Inclusion and Targeted Support) from Sport and Leisure set up the Diversity Academy and manages its development and delivery, in partnership with Nottingham Forest Football in the Community and the County FA. The 'Diversity Academy' targets Nottingham's most under represented BME communities, providing opportunities to access high quality coaching, competitions and progression as players and coaches.

The project engages over 400 young people from a diverse range of BME groups in inner city Nottingham, predominantly from Pakistani, Indian, Somali, Afghan and African Caribbean communities in regular monthly community football festivals. Furthermore, 46 young people from BME Communities have completed and achieved accredited Sports Leadership qualifications and 14 new FA Level 1 adult coaches have also qualified.

The project also has an established link with the Nottingham Forest F.C Youth Academy, with scouts in attendance and contributing to coaching sessions at each festival. To date, 8 young people have been selected for Academy trials with the club as a result of the talent ID model the project provides, young people who are not engaged in mainstream football with a traditional club. 3 young people have progressed into the Youth Academy as a direct result of the project.

Nottingham Civic Society Commendations

Nottingham Civic Society inspected the Highfield Park Play Area and the Woodthorpe Park Pavilion in November 2011 and commended them for their good quality, innovation in landscape and built environment design and construction.

Nigel Doughty

Nigel Doughty passed away on Saturday 4 February, aged only 54 years old. Born of humble roots on a housing estate in Newark, Nigel was a life-long Nottingham Forest supporter from an early age. In 1999, he intervened financially to save the Club from Administration and following this, as the Club's owner and Chairman, he invested millions in the Club he loved. Nigel was also a hugely successful and visionary businessman with offices and interests across the world through his private equity firm Doughty Hanson. An influential figure in the Labour Party, Nigel was also seen as the responsible face of capitalism and gave generously to charity from his personal wealth. He leaves a wife, Lucy, his four children and his father to whom we send our sincere condolences for their loss.

The Council stood in silence in tribute to his memory.

83 QUESTIONS

Changes to the tax and benefit system

Councillor Neal asked the following question of the Deputy Leader:

Would the Deputy Leader comment on the Institute for Fiscal Studies report which says the income of families with children will be hardest hit by Government changes to the tax and benefit system?

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:

Thank you, Sheriff, and can I thank Councillor Neal for his question.

“We are all in it together” George Osbourne tells us and that must be the reason why the government has chosen the poorest in society to make the biggest contribution. It must be, and I can only think of this, that because they don’t want the poor to feel left out when it comes to making a contribution to the national cause, and just to show how child friendly George Osbourne is, he has selected, amongst the poorest, those with children who should be given the first opportunity to do their bit for the nation.

The result is, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, not only do families face a challenging 2012, but looking further ahead, and I’m quoting the Institute:

“We see evidence of more financial strain to come. IFS research confirms that families with children are shouldering a disproportionate burden, with the median income among households with children set to fall in real terms by 4.2 % between 2010/11 and 2015/16.”

This is the equivalent to an annual reduction in income of £1,250 for a couple with two children. This is significantly higher than the reduction in income of households who do not have children. Looking at the picture, before the introduction of universal credit, families with children lose just over 6% of their income, compared with just under 4% for all households and 3% of working age households without children, so there is clear discrimination against households with children. The most immediate changes in tax and benefits affect the working tax credit and child tax credit, which will, of course, affect working households and households with children reducing available household income. Also, child benefit has been frozen and day to day living continues to rise, while salaries do not.

The impact on Nottingham is as follows - there are low incomes families, between 11,000 out of work families in the City, there are 11,900 in work families with children receiving child tax credit or working tax credit, there are 7,300 in work families with children receiving child tax credit alone. This is a total of 21,000 children in Nottingham who live in workless households, so that’s 35% of the City’s children. Yet another 34.6%, another 21,000 children live in low income households claiming both

working tax credits and council tax credits. That is 42,000 children in this City and is 70% of the City's child population who will be affected by these changes and they will be affected negatively.

I remind you that "we are all in it together", and in the spirit of "being all in it together", given the impact on children's measures, I am sure that we could persuade these families in Nottingham who will be affected to step aside and give the opportunity to others to make the sacrifice, for example, tax exiles, some of whom fund the Conservative Party, like Lord Ashcroft. People who are being paid large bonuses, I am sure would be very keen to join the queue; people benefiting from considerable inherited wealth, including members of the cabinet; people benefiting from higher rate tax relief and pension contributions which is worth many, many millions of pounds and that should be dealt with before we deal with children.

So I have got a little list and all of them I know will be queuing up to do their patriotic duty to contribute so that we really are "all in it together", rather than concentrating on poor families in places like Nottingham where 70% of the children will be affected.

Bristol Evening Post coverage of Nottingham

Councillor Ali asked the following question of the Leader:

What does the Leader think of recent positive press coverage about Nottingham in the Evening Post, the Bristol Evening Post?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:

Thank you, Sheriff, and can I thank Councillor Ali for his question.

Can I say I was delighted that the Nottingham Post sister paper in Bristol gave Nottingham such positive coverage about the Council's record of success over the years. On a front page story and an inside spread over two pages on 20 January this year, it details some of this City's achievements and asked if Nottingham can get these things built then why can't Bristol. So if anybody's interested I've got the artwork here.

Of course, Bristol is a great City too, but from the tram to the Council owned Nottingham City Transport, from the ice rink to Trent Bridge, the Bristol Evening Post says that Nottingham delivers on projects that

Bristol itself struggles to get off the ground. So if I can just pick a few quotes from the newspaper, on the tram it said:

“If there’s one development which has changed the face of Nottingham more than any other, it’s the tram.”

On the Ice Arena it said:

“Like Bristol, Nottingham once had a threadbare ice arena that badly needed replacing. In Bristol it seems destined to be student flats. In Nottingham they replaced it with a bigger, modern version and it’s been a great success.”

On Nottingham City Transport it says:

“The fact that Nottingham City Council has such a large stake in a company that runs the buses across the City is down to the tenacity of a lady by the name of Betty Higgins, Leader of the City Council in the mid 1980’s. “

So what lies behind this record of success that the Bristol Evening Post has chosen to highlight so strongly? Well, in my view, there are three main reasons. First, as the article implies, Nottingham has a real track record of success in bringing in money through inward investment, this money means we have been able to match our ambition to take the City forward, as well as boost the local economy and help us to create jobs.

Secondly, we have a long term vision for Nottingham, and a vision for Nottingham of the kind of City we want it to be and the kind of City that is prepared to meet the challenges of, not only now, but in the future too, and that leads me neatly onto my third reason. I think the third reason is political stability, political stability which allows us to focus on the long term and to keep our eyes firmly on the things that really matter to local people, so we don’t have a Council where the administration changes every few years, we don’t have a large number of Liberal Democrat Councillors, in fact we don’t have any Liberal Democrat Councillors and we don’t have a political culture that sacrifices the long term interests of the City for short term political success, a situation, I suspect, that wouldn’t survive the election of a directly Elected Mayor.

Clearly, according to the Bristol Evening Post, Nottingham delivers, and no doubt Charlie Walker is working on a similar piece for the Nottingham

Evening Post complete with comments from 'rent-a-quote' former Councillor Sutton. On reflection, I won't hold my breath. There is, of course, still much to do especially in these difficult economic times, but it is good to see that others outside of the City recognise that this City has its successes and recognises the progress that we have been able to make over the last two decades.

Referendum on Elected Mayor

Councillor Jones asked the following question of the Deputy Leader:

Today Nottingham City Council posted its notice of referendum, 56 days ahead of the Government enforced referendum on an Elected Mayor for Nottingham. Would the Deputy Leader comment on the impact and cost of the Government's decision?

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:

Thank you, Councillor Jones, for your question.

I feel that I have had some of my thunder stolen already, thank your Councillor Collins and Councillor Edwards, by a bad piece of choreography.

The impact of an elected mayoral system is totally unknowable, and that is precisely the problem. It would concentrate enormous authority and control in the hands of one individual and much will depend on the quality and personality of that individual. However, it is high risk and could open a Pandora's Box of problems. Almost by definition, people who put themselves forward as Elected Mayors in the first instance, are frequently the wrong people. Often, not always, you have people with very large egos, often you have people with little sensitivity, as often the two go together, so there is an in-built problem from the beginning. The second in-built problem is the balance of power within an authority which is upset. Instead of a two-way relationship that you have between the Leader and the Chief Executive, and this is probably the most important point, you get a three-way relationship between Elected Mayor, the Chief Executive and the Leader of the ruling group, without the checks and balances you get in the current system, and the latter relationship between the Leader and the ruling group and the Elected Mayor, almost irrespective of party, is almost by definition, conflictual because they've got different interests.

I have experience of Stoke, where I mentored the last Mayor of Stoke before Stoke got rid of the last mayoralty, and I have experience of Doncaster when I was part of the Audit Commission Team, which went in when there were some serious problems in Doncaster. So I know, probably as much as anybody, about the difficulties that can be caused. Both authorities were classified simultaneously as the most unstable councils in England and that instability was caused precisely by that three-way relationship. The third problem is that the mayoral system marginalises local Councillors. Already the role of the local Councillors, in my view, is reduced by the executive system. I have never liked it, I continue not to like it. The mayoral system marginalises further, in that the electorate simply bypass ordinary members and go directly to the top. If you talk to North Tyneside you'll find that the amount of casework done by local members has diminished quite rapidly because people simply write in to the Mayor.

Then you have the cost, the referendum will cost £300,000, the elections 2013/2017 will cost around £683,000, we've got calculations from our own officers, the salary of the Mayor could be anything up to £115,000, when the current Leaders' salary is £40,000 odd, I don't precisely know how much, but there will be a £70,000 increase, and then you've got staffing costs because, as sure as eggs are eggs, you'll get an increase in staffing costs around the Mayor, as they will need additional support.

You'll also get another layer of governance and decision making cluttering up the system. In short there is little place for an Elected Mayor, it destabilises systems, it undermines democracy and it costs an enormous amount. There is no evidence whatsoever that Elected Mayors have added a great deal of value to their area, some have been reasonable, but there is no dramatic improvement. There is much evidence to show, as in Torbay, North Tyneside, Stoke, Doncaster they have created conflict and confusion. In my view, it is ironically, a concept left over from the last decade, the pre-crash decade which brought the super bankers like Bob Diamond, super Prime Ministers and I won't quote who, who dispensed with cabinet systems, super England managers who were paid £6 million, super newspaper editors and newspaper magnates could sort out whole organisations, nations, football teams by dint of personality and command and control. What a delusion it was, and it was a delusion that people suffering from messiah complexes, and, in my view, they have never been able to sort out large systems, they never will be able to do so, and I don't think an Elected Mayor will be a panacea or a solution to any problems and, in

Nottingham's case, it is not a solution to problems which don't exist, and, in my view, I believe Nottingham recognises this and will not be delusional enough to think that we need a Mayor because, again, you are stacking up problems for the future if we do end up with one.

Adult Social Care provision

Councillor Morris asked the following question of the Leader:

Would the Leader comment on the difficulties faced in Adult Social Care provision and how he thinks the system needs to change?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:

Thank you, Sheriff, and can I thank Councillor Morris for her question.

Members will be aware that in Nottingham, as in other parts of the country, the demographic profile is changing with the number of people aged 65 and over estimated to increase by almost a quarter over the next 20 years. That's great, but with it comes a significant increase in the care needs of the population too, for example, the number of older people suffering from dementia in the City is predicted to increase by some 16% over just the next four years.

Medical developments, too, mean that children born with disabilities who previously would not have survived childhood are surviving into adulthood with more complex needs, for example, over the next three years the number of people with mental health problems requiring treatment in the City is expected to rise by 9%, and the number of people with learning difficulties will rise by 13%. These are, of course, the same trends seen across the rest of the country albeit exacerbated by the high levels of health inequality and multiple deprivation typical of big cities and apparent in Nottingham.

It was in this context that the Dilnot Report was published late last year. The Dilnot Report recommended a cap on care costs of £35,000, after which an individual will receive full state support. The report also recommended that the means tested threshold at which people became eligible for their full care costs should be raised from £23,250, as it currently is, to £100,000. However, while the report was almost universally welcomed, government is yet to respond to its key recommendations and until they do, local authorities need to operate

within a tight, regulatory and policed framework and specifically, a means tested threshold for social care with escalating contributions based on income and savings up to a cut off at £23,250, the universal introduction of personal budgets where care users buy the services they want with the budget provided by the Council, and Council choice over the level of care needs they provide for.

Unfortunately, the coincidence of all three, means tough choices for councils and escalating costs for some service users. In Nottingham's case, some home care and all day care service costs have been subsidised to encourage usage and minimise the cost to users, however, the money we use to fund and subsidise services is the same money that the government is requiring that we use to provide personal budgets. There is no other source of funding so, inevitably, as we increase the amount we spend on personal budgets, we have to reduce the subsidy and increase the cost of accessing those services. Of course, for many care users, this isn't a problem because their incomes are so low their care costs are met in full by the Council, and, actually, that is some 40% of those receiving care in the City. However, for care users who are required to meet some or all of their care costs because of their income or savings, the withdrawal of subsidy means very large cost increases. Furthermore, as we reduce service subsidies and costs increase, the number of people choosing to use our services inevitably falls, leading again to higher costs, less provision and, ultimately, less choice.

Members will, of course, be aware that nationally there appears to be a political consensus around the need for means tested social care and the bizarre ability of introducing personal budgets. I have to say that this is not a consensus that I subscribe to. In my view, personal budgets are fine for some care users, but, in my view, inappropriate for all. The low savings threshold and sharp means test of income and savings means that care users of modest means are being asked to meet rapidly escalating costs unsustainably, and the squeeze on local government funding, combined with the demographic and other social changes, are leading councils across the country to focus on an increasingly small number of most needy care users and to ignore the genuine but lesser needs of many others. Nottingham is, for example, one of now only a handful of local authorities that seeks to meet the care needs of people with high moderate care needs, as opposed to substantial or acute care needs.

The current system cannot cope with the growing demands of an aging population but, unless the government addresses the issues, it's the system we have to make work. That's why this year, and in future years too, this Council will be making difficult decisions with disproportionate consequences for a small number of people needing social care. None of us want to see big increases in social care fees and charges, but that is inevitable unless the government acts and the system changes.

Sunday and evening car parking charges

Councillor Steel asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation:

The Portfolio Holder will recall my questions at previous meetings regarding Sunday and extended evening car parking charges. Can she confirm that in light of representations against such charges in the local and national press, she will now take into account the views of local businesses who complain of loss of revenue, and places of worship that are also suffering financially.

Can we have her assurances that she is reconsidering this policy? Meanwhile, would she consider an immediate moratorium on Sunday and extended evening charging until these problems are resolved?

In Councillor Urquhart's absence, Councillor Collins replied as follows:

Thank you, Sheriff, and remind me next time when we're asked what dates we want full Council meetings on, to ensure that it doesn't fall in half term.

Anyway, Nottingham City Council has repoded to the concerns of businesses and retailers and will be amending some on-street parking charges. In November the Council introduced some new charges and waiting restrictions for parking on-street between 6 and 8pm Monday to Saturday and on Sundays between 8am and 8pm. The charges were made to help tackle the problems caused by people parking for long periods of time in parking bays designed for short term, high turnover, parking for shoppers and visitors.

The Council has been listening to the concerns of retailers and businesses, as a result, the following interim changes will be made - Sunday charges will be simplified and reduced so that they will be a flat

£1 charge for the maximum stay in each zone, evening charges will also be simplified and reduced for a flat £1 rate for any parking between 6pm in Zone 1 and Zone 3 and after 5pm in Zone 2, a permit will be introduced that allows customers to overstay parking limits for one hour, for example, two hours in Hockley instead of the current one hour. This will be available for businesses and business customers.

It is anticipated that these changes will be brought into place in April and will sit along side further engagement between the Council and retail and leisure bids, Invest in Nottingham Club, Retail Forum and other City Centre stakeholders, to see whether any further changes to our car parking arrangements need to be made to support the City Centre. These are significant changes to the existing prices which have been welcomed by retailers and, given that they are to be introduced in a matter of weeks, there will not be any further action necessary such as the suspension of charges all together.

Apprenticeship city hubs

Councillor Culley asked the following question of the Leader:

Will the Leader of the Council join me in welcoming the announcement by the Minister for Skills, John Hayes MP, that Nottingham will become home to the first of 8 apprenticeship city hubs, supporting local colleges and employers to provide highly-skilled apprenticeships to our young people, and also welcome the additional City Skills Funding from the Government that this will bring?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:

Thank you, Sheriff, and can I thank Councillor Culley for her question.

I am happy to join with Councillor Culley in welcoming the announcement the Nottingham is to benefit from £0.5 million for the development of an apprenticeship hub, even though at this stage it is a little unclear how government intends to operate it, or what we can spend the money on. Members will, of course, be aware that we have already established an employer hub which is now working with 35 different employers to match local unemployed people to local jobs, including those created by the tram.

We hope to be able to develop the apprenticeship hub as part of the employer hub and to integrate the funding into the Council's wider jobs and skills programme that, to date, has helped some 835 local people into jobs since April. Other activities supported through the programme include making all Council entry level jobs apprenticeships reserved for City residents, guaranteeing ringfenced interviews for Council apprentices for vacancies that arise within the authority, a £1.5 million Nottingham Jobs Fund to half fund placements for young people in the private sector, I think that is three times the amount we are getting from government but every penny counts, and promoting the creation and take up of apprentices from within the City too.

On Saturday we held our first apprenticeship fair for young people and their parents so that they could find out what opportunities there are for apprentices in the City, and so that we could put them directly in touch with both colleges and employers who have apprenticeships to offer. That event was a great success, with over 650 people attending. At a challenging time for the economy and with youth unemployment continuing to rise, this Council is committed to tackling youth unemployment and to making the creation of jobs, apprenticeships and training places a priority.

5 term school year

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

Does the Portfolio Holder agree with me that, in light of the unpopularity of the proposed 5 term school year with the teaching unions, we are endangering our City's ability to recruit and retain good teachers at a time when exam results are still well below the national average?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you, Sheriff, and can I thank Councillor Morley for her question.

In response to your question about the five term year and the recruiting and retaining of the best teaching and learning professionals in the City, I'm afraid I don't consider that the change will significantly impact on retention and recruitment, in fact, very recent experience of headship recruitment to one of our primary schools, Highbank in Clifton, following the decision to go to a five term year, has demonstrated that high calibre

professionals are keen to work in Nottingham. A strong field of applicants was available for the governors to choose from, and they were able to make a strong appointment to further boost our professional workforce.

Of course, as a City, we are clearly continuing to attract the best professionals from both within and beyond the City, we do have an improving attainment profile with the City, and we must now turn every stone to continue this improvement further. I'd like to remind Council today of some of the drivers for change and reiterate why we do think it is important to move to a five term year. Shorter, consistent and more equal learning blocks of time can help children to be more motivated and less tired, pupils are less likely to forget what they have learnt, or get out of the habit of learning over a shorter summer holiday, childcare needs for parents are more easily addressed in a shorter summer break, and we need to consider too, the incomes of many of our families in the City, Councillor Chapman referred to, earlier on, a significant number of children in the City are entitled to free school meals, and the long summer break is a real strain financially for many families when this daily meal is not available as children are not in school, and, of course, we need no longer for our young children to work in fields during the long summer days to bring in the harvest; we need to educate them to meet the challenge of the 21st century.

Nottingham is a vibrant City that attracts and retains a wide range of teaching professionals across all learning settings that operate a variety of holiday patterns, and already there are academy schools in Nottingham that operate at different term and holiday patterns, which have not encountered recruitment and retention issues and have achieved improvements in attainment. We want to continue and retain our good and outstanding teachers, and attract a professional teaching and learning workforce that embraces improving learning outcomes for Nottingham children, and signs up to our commitment to do whatever it takes to enhance the life chances of our children in the City.

Objections that have been brought forward from the teachers' unions, and, yes, there have been many that are related, in main, to teachers that work in the City but live in the County, and therefore, their children, if they have children of school age, may have a different holiday pattern. This will amount to approximately eight weeks that will be the same in the City, and five that will be different, and although this may result in some inconvenience for some members of staff, this does give teachers in the City more holiday time with their children than the rest of the working

citizens in the City, the majority of which tend to have only four or five weeks when they can have annual leave from their workplace in school holiday periods.

The consultation we carried out, with the biggest return rate that the City Council has had on a consultation, brought us to the decision to move to the five term model, it showed that the majority of citizens in Nottingham who responded to the consultation were in favour of the changes. I need to emphasise that we are not reducing the holiday entitlement to teachers and school staff, they will still have thirteen weeks' holiday, but it will be more evenly paced throughout the year to create more equal times of learning. I've had many letters from school members of staff over the past few months, it is important to listen to the points that they are making, and they will all be replied to. I was a teacher myself for twenty years, so I can relate to the points that they are making, but I have also had letters from other people who have also had a stake in the term and holiday arrangements, just on Friday one from one of my constituents, he says this:

"I and my wife whole heartedly agree with your changes to the school term as do my children. They say that the six week holiday is too long, there is little to do and they get bored and as parents with constrained time, we don't have as much money to entertain them as we used to. I am sure that there are many low paid working parents who are adversely affected by these proposed strikes who would not mind teachers terms and conditions, instead we have to take extra holidays or unpaid days off."

There has also been some support from other sources, perhaps surprising ones for some people. Indeed last Friday the Secretary of State, Michael Gove said that reducing the long summer break will benefit children from poorer homes who lose learning over the summer break. The Secretary of State is actually promoting the five term year, now I can't say that there are many issues in which I agree with Mr Gove, but I think on this one he has got it right.

In summary, the education and wider arguments for the change to the holiday pattern for our children remain paramount in our strategy to bring about improved outcomes for the children. This has always been and always will be about the best interests of the children, I will listen to parents, I will listen to teachers, but it is the needs of children which are the most important. We are confident that the professional workforce in

our schools will continue to be committed to our children and to the vision for our City and we will continue to attract the highest calibre of professionals to join us and stay with us on this exciting journey.

Publishing names of officers earning above £58,000

Councillor Parton asked the following question of the Leader:

Could the Leader of the Council explain the ‘safety issues’ that would prevent this Council from publishing the names of officers earning above £58,000?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:

Nottingham City Council publishes the number of employers earning more than £50,000, the job title, name and pay of those earning more than £150,000, and the job title and pay of those earning £50,000 and £150,000. We therefore meet all legal requirements to publish such information and have no concerns in doing so.

Currently, of Nottingham City Council’s 12,000 employees, only 93 school based staff and 37 non school based staff are paid at this level. That is just under 2% of school staff and 0.5% of non school staff, comparing favourably with most other local authorities and, indeed, with the Civil Service.

84 DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER THE URGENCY PROCEDURE

The report of the Leader, as set out on pages 283 to 285 of the agenda, was submitted.

RESOLVED that, on the motion of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Chapman, the urgent decisions taken, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

85 MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR MELLEN

Moved by Councillor Mellen, seconded by Councillor Longford:

“This Council believes investment in young people should be a national and local government priority.

Council applauds the work of schools and colleges in driving up exam results and of Connexion workers in reducing the number of young people classed as NEET (not in education, employment or training) locally despite youth unemployment growing nationally.

However, Council regrets decisions by Government to abolish the Education Maintenance Allowance; the Future Jobs Fund; funded work experience placements and capital projects delivering apprenticeships and jobs for young people.

Council, nevertheless, is committed to reducing youth unemployment by:

- (a) maximising investment in the City and in jobs for local people;
- (b) continuing to improve the achievement levels of young people;
- (c) ensuring that all institutions within Nottingham effectively prepare young people for progression in work, equipping them with appropriate skills for the future."

Contributions were also made to the debate by:

- Mike Butler, Djanogly City Academy;
- Mal Cowgill, South Nottinghamshire College;
- Jean Pardoe, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Futures;
- Natalie Robinson, Youth Cabinet.

Moved by Councillor Morley by way of an amendment and seconded by Councillor Parton that:

In paragraph 2 delete "driving up" and insert "improving", and after "exam results" insert "while recognising that there is still much work to be done to bring our children into line with the national average and give them a fighting chance at the beginning of their working lives", and delete "and" and insert "The council also recognises the work of".

In paragraph 3 delete "However, Council regrets decisions by Government to abolish the Education Maintenance Allowance; the Future Jobs Fund; funded work experience placements and capital projects delivering apprenticeships and jobs for young people." and insert "This Council welcomes the announcement of Minister for Skills John Hayes MP that Nottingham will be the first 'skills hub' enabling local businesses

to work with the authority and education providers to offer high-skilled apprenticeships to our young people.”

In paragraph 4 insert “This” and delete “, nevertheless,”.

The amended motion to read:

“This Council believes investment in young people should be a national and local government priority.

Council applauds the work of schools and colleges in improving exam results while recognising that there is still much work to be done to bring our children into line with the national average and give them a fighting chance at the beginning of their working lives.

The Council also recognises the work of Connexions staff in reducing the number of young people classed as NEET (not in education, employment or training) locally despite youth unemployment growing nationally.

This Council welcomes the announcement of Minister for Skills John Hayes MP that Nottingham will be the first ‘skills hub’ enabling local businesses to work with the authority and education providers to offer high-skilled apprenticeships to our young people.

The Council is committed to reducing youth unemployment by:

- (a) maximising investment in the City and in jobs for local people;
- (b) continuing to improve the achievement levels of young people;
- (c) ensuring that all institutions within Nottingham effectively prepare young people for progression in work, equipping them with appropriate skills for the future.”

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

After discussion, the substantive motion was put to the vote and was carried.

RESOLVED that the substantive motion be carried.

86 EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL IN JULY 2012

RESOLVED that an Extraordinary meeting of Council be held prior to the ordinary meeting on 9 July 2012 to consider the installation of Nat Puri as an Honorary Freeman of the City.

87 CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIPS

RESOLVED that the following changes to memberships be noted:

(a) Standards Committee

The removal of Councillor Morley and the addition of Councillor Culley

(b) Executive Board Commissioning Sub Committee

The addition of Councillor Norris

(c) Trusts and Charities Committee

The removal of Councillor Morley and the addition of Councillor Steel

The meeting concluded at 6.40 pm