

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Nottingham,

on Monday 9 July 2012 at 2.00 pm

### ATTENDANCES

✓ Councillor Unczur	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 Urquhart
✓ Councillor Jenkins	✓ Councillor Watson
Councillor Johnson	✓ Councillor Wildgust
✓ Councillor Jones	✓ Councillor K Williams
✓ Councillor Khan	✓ Councillor S Williams
✓ Councillor Klein	✓ Councillor Wood

## **26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fox, Johnson and Longford.

## **27 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interests were made.

## **28 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM CITIZENS**

No questions or petition from citizens were received.

## **29 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2012, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Lord Mayor.

## **30 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS**

The Acting Chief Executive reported the following communications:

### **LGcommunications Reputation Awards 2012**

The Communications and Marketing Team won a total of three awards at the national LGcommunications Reputation Awards 2012, held in Birmingham on 30 May. These were in the categories of Value for Money, Special Achievement and Digital and Social Media.

### **Victoria Leisure Centre architecture award**

Victoria Leisure Centre won the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Midlands Regional Award at a ceremony held in Leicester on 20 June 2012.

Victoria Leisure Centre benefited from a £9 million investment as part of the Council's £32 million Leisure Centre Transformation programme. The Centre, which opened in March 2012, is a modern, sustainable leisure facility which was also in keeping with the characteristics of the original 1850s' building.

The Centre was rebuilt by Nottingham's award-winning Local Education Partnership, a public private partnership between Nottingham City Council and Inspiredspaces.

### **Local Sustainable Transport Fund**

At the end of June Nottingham was successful in securing £10.3 million from the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund for 'smarter transport initiatives' over the next three years. A bid was submitted in partnership with the Greater Nottingham Transport Partnership, NHS Nottingham City, Sustrans, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire County Councils covering the Nottingham Urban area. The funding will help jobseekers, young people and those on low incomes. The Council plans to use this money to transform travel behaviour across the conurbation, support businesses and help people to access work and training.

### **Priority School Building Programme**

Nottingham City Council submitted successful bids for Springfield Primary and Nursery School, Bulwell Hall, Glenbrook Primary and Nursery School, Bilborough, and Top Valley School and Engineering College to benefit from the Government's Priority School Building Programme. 1,400 pupils and their teachers will benefit from the investment of up to £5 million on school repairs over the next five years.

### **Royal Visit and Olympic Torch Relay**

Thousands came to see the Royal family on 13 June as the Queen, with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, visited Nottingham's Old Market Square and Vernon Park, Basford. The visit was enjoyed by between 20,000 and 25,000 citizens in the City Centre, with a further 11,000 at Vernon Park.

The Olympic flame came to Nottingham on 28 June, with the torch relay starting at Trent Bridge, visiting the Embankment, Ice Arena and Sneinton Square before going on to a major event in the Old Market Square. Again, large crowds lined the route and attended the events. Next morning, the relay started at the Castle and went on to Lenton, Radford and Ellis Guilford School. The route was busy, attracting many local school children to watch the relay.

Around 70,000 people attended the relay and associated events over the two days.

Both events involved traffic control, event management, police and other emergency services working together to manage road closures, minimise adverse impact, monitor the major events and security.

## **Road Safety Quiz final 2012**

Traffic Services held the 'Road Safety Quiz Final 2012' in Loxley House Atrium on Wednesday 27 June. Since the Quiz was introduced as a major part of road safety work with City schools, child injuries have fallen from 300 to an all time low of 118. The Council welcomed over 300 children and parents for a very successful event which culminated in the Blessed Robert Widmerpool Academy winning overall. Since February almost 11,000 children have taken part in the Road Safety Quiz heats, with 10 schools making it through to the final.

## **City Deal launch**

On 5 July Right Honourable Eric Pickles and Councillor Jon Collins launched the Nottingham City Deal at an event at Antenna. The Deal announced a £60 million package for the City to foster enterprise, support a high quality workforce and develop a 21<sup>st</sup> Century infrastructure.

The Nottingham City Deal seeks to unlock Nottingham's potential by enabling the City to be connected internally, nationally and globally, develop creative new and existing businesses and become the most competitive of the similar sized cities in the UK for businesses to be based.

The City Deal will provide resources for the successful implementation of the Nottingham Growth Plan, which aims to develop a highly skilled, science and technology based, low carbon economy within Nottingham by 2020.

This City Deal will be the catalyst for change, including enabling the development of the Nottingham Growth Plan's flagship project – the Creative Quarter, and will provide a platform for the next generation of Nottingham entrepreneurs to carve out their future, create opportunity and jobs, and lead Nottingham to an exciting new future.

## **Alarm Awards**

On 25 June Alarm, the public risk management association, announced that Nottingham City Council had won an award for excellence in the category of insurance risk, reflecting the innovative work that the Insurance and Risk Management Team have done to improve claims handling and reduce future risk and cost.

## **Tragedy in Karlsruhe**

The Lord Mayor had written on behalf of the City Council to the Oberbürgermeister of Karlsruhe in Germany to express condolences in the light of a gunman killing four people in an incident on 4 July 2012.

## **Flooding in Krasnodar**

Over 170 people are reported to have lost their lives in the flash floods that took place in Krasnodar on Friday night and the Lord Mayor will be sending a message of sympathy and support.

## **Former Councillor Ronald McIntosh**

The City Council were informed of the recent death of former Councillor Ronald McIntosh.

Ronald McIntosh was elected to represent the Radford Ward on 2 May 1991, and became Nottingham's first black Sheriff in 1994.

Councillor Clark spoke about the flooding in Krasnodar.

Councillor Campbell paid tribute to former Councillor Ronald McIntosh.

The Council stood in silent tribute to his memory and to pay respect to those who died in the recent tragedies in Karlsruhe and Krasnodar.

## **31 QUESTIONS**

### **Nottingham's Growth Plan and City Deal**

Councillor Khan asked the following question of the Leader:

With the launch of Nottingham's Growth Plan this morning, the only one in the country, and last week's City Deal announcement would the Leader update the Council on the progress on delivering growth to Nottingham's economy?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord Mayor.

I think the first thing to say is that we all know we are living in challenging times, we've got national low demand which had led us to double-dip recession. Locally we've got that as a problem and an issue too and, of course, that's been compounded by what have been disproportionate cuts in local authority spending, and the end result of that is, quite simply, that we see job losses in the public sector. We also see reductions in the amount that local authorities and the public sector can spend in the private sector, the end result is we see jobs being lost there as well, and people who have lost their jobs can't spend because they haven't got the money, people who remain in jobs have seen pay cuts, and if they haven't seen pay cuts, most people are very uncertain for the future, and the end result is that they're not spending either. So, these are the kind of challenges the economy faces, and that sets the context in which we've sought to work with business locally and government in the first instance to develop the Growth Plan, in the second to develop the City Deal.

What do they both involve? As far as the Growth Plan is concerned, it's been a bit of a process. We launched the draft Plan in February, it was generally well received, but it was a draft. The aim was to get people thinking, was to drive consultation with our business sector colleagues and partners, and since that time we've been listening. We've heard people's views and opinions and we've taken those on board, and the final document that we launched today reflected those views and opinions. We've had a lot of buy-in actually, not just because of the consultation, but buy-in from a whole range of organisations. You would expect to have buy-in from other councils; you would expect to have buy-in possibly from the universities, but from major companies as well and from business organisations. There's been this sense of 'well actually, this is something we are interested in, it's something that we recognise as necessary, and in having a focus on growth in the local economy, it's something that we very much want to support'.

The Growth Plan suggests that, as far as the local economy is concerned, we should be focussing on three main growth areas and the areas that we're suggesting that the Growth Plan should focus on are around digital content, life sciences and clean technology. What does that entail? Well, digital content includes production of music, film, computer games, websites, and that's pretty much built around the work of Confetti, Broadway and other similar media companies. Life sciences is built around the academic strength of our 2 universities, Boots, and the success of BioCity. Clean and Green technology is built on the reputation that City has, well the fact of the matter is, the City is the most self-sufficient city as far as energy production is concerned, but also the applied research that is currently underway at the university around both the clean and green technologies. So, those are the 3 sectors that the Growth Plan suggests that we should focus on, the challenge, of course, is not just to say that these are important, it's then to talk about what we are going to do about it.

There's three areas of work that the Growth Plan suggests that we concentrate on, the first is on fostering enterprise and, in attempting to achieve that, we are looking to develop what's called the Nottingham Investment Fund, which will be a fund of around £25 million backed by government, £10 million matched through the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Authority Pension Fund and also additional contributions from the private sector. There will be a Growth 100 Programme, which is looking to business managers and entrepreneurs who are running small and medium size businesses and who are keen to see those businesses develop and grow, it will be a programme of mentoring and training, support and practical advice on how best to develop their companies. The Generation Y, which is particularly focussed at young people, will offer training and mentoring but also, crucially, grants of up to £25,000 to help young people and students get good ideas off the ground and help them set up businesses. We'll also be looking, as a City Council and County Council, at the way we procure our own services and our own supplies so that we can, where possible, ensure that they are purchased locally.

As far as developing a school workforce is concerned, the backdrop of this is the educational improvement we have seen over the last 10-15 years in the City, but notwithstanding that, there still is, very clearly, work to do. One of the key bits of work we want to do is: develop, through a City Skills Fund, a Skills Plan and that Plan will, in conjunction with businesses and local colleges, look to understand what the demands of

local colleges actually are for different areas of skilled activity; talk to the colleges to ensure that there is provision available for training in those areas but, crucially, help local people understand that, actually, there are jobs here and these are the kind of training requirements and qualifications necessary, and this is the way you can get those qualifications. Practical, solid, sensible advice.

We've got the Nottingham Jobs Fund, of course, which is additional funding that the City Council has identified over the last year or so, and the idea there is that, as people already know, half of the funding is for year long placements in the private sector for young people that are residents in the City, will be met through the Nottingham Jobs Fund. We are working with the Djanogly Academy and the University of Nottingham to set up a university technical college, hopefully that will be up and running by September 2013 and will concentrate on technical practical skills for 14-19 year olds.

And there's the Employer Hub which, again, the City Council has set up, which has been running for almost a year now, which gives local people the opportunity to register their skills on the one hand, and businesses the opportunity to secure local employees in a free, so very cost effective, way and also to be clear about their skills requirements and the kind of people they need as employees.

Finally, onto 21<sup>st</sup> Century infrastructure, the progress that we've been making on public infrastructure, public transport infrastructure, is clear, but when the annual costs of congestion are estimated at £160 million a year, progress in improving our public transport network which reduces congestion is obviously a major part of what we need to do. The railway station - people will know the work we are doing there to improve the customer experience; we continue to press for the electrification of the Midland Mainline and lobbying goes on with our local authority colleagues and we are hopeful that government are going to make a statement on the matter imminently, hopefully some time this week, but we will see on that.

We are introducing a Rent Guarantee Scheme, and this will be about trying to support developers who are prepared to build much needed office accommodation that we know is going to be needed over the next 10-15 years but, currently, for which pre-lets are unavailable. Many developers can't develop in that context without those pre-lets, the idea of the Rent Guarantee Scheme is, where there is proven demand, the



Council will look to, through this fund, identify ways of supporting the development of that office accommodation for a period prior to accommodation subsequently being let; cheap energy - of course, we are looking to expand the district heating scheme, which will provide cheap energy to a range of companies and organisations as it currently does, but we're looking to expand that.

Finally, broadband. We have, in the City, over a period, developed a scheme, Ultraband, which is a pilot scheme but which provides the kind of capacity that the creative industries need to be able to network with other parts of the country. It is in pilot form though and, as part of our City Deal, we have negotiated with government ways in which we can further enhance that network. We're not there yet, but we've got meetings with BT later this month and a further meeting with the relevant minister, Ed Vaizey, towards the end of the month and we'll see how we make progress with that, but there are a number of plans for building the broadband capacity of this City to the level where it provides the kind of infrastructure the creative industries need if they are going to be truly successful.

That finally brings me on to the City Deal. A City Deal which we have spent some time negotiating with government, in the first instance looks like it will bring some £50-60 million to the City, and the funding will be on a range of practical projects but, fundamentally, it is about focussing on the creation of a creative quarter for the City, and the creative quarter will be built around Hockley, Sneinton Market, the Island Site and BioCity. The aim of the creative quarter will be to offer location, business support, loans, grants, workforce training and the kind of infrastructure and capacity, particularly in terms of broadband, that we know new and emerging entrepreneurs in the kind of bio-science and creative sectors are particularly concerned about and interested in developing. As far as the creative quarter is concerned, it's a part of the overall picture. I'm optimistic for the practical benefits of these proposals that we're bringing forward. It's not just another glossy plan that we can stick on the shelf, it has buy-in from the private sector, has partners really interested, really is backed with some money and I think it is a big positive for the City.

### **Impact of the Welfare Bill and cuts to Housing Benefits**

Councillor Jenkins asked the following question of the Deputy Leader:

Could the Deputy Leader please comment on the likely impact on the number of homeless people in the City due to the Government's recently introduced Welfare Bill and the Conservative's new ideas to cut all housing benefits for under 25s?

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:

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

Councillor Collins' final words were a very apposite introduction to what I'm going to say, because I'm going to concentrate on young people. Young people have had, and continue to have, a rough deal under the current government. The reason that they have been selected out as opposed to the elderly, for example, although there are a number of poorer elderly people who are also getting a harsh deal, is that unlike the better off elderly, they don't vote and on the whole, when they do vote, they don't vote Conservative. Now I'm not making a crude political point; I'm actually putting a very simple fact and I've been reluctant to come to this conclusion until quite recently, but there's a whole series of things that have happened which make me believe that it is a political assault on a particular group.

Thus we have a loss of the EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance), hitting working class children in particular; we have non-dependent deductions in benefits hitting households with over 18s; we have the restrictions in benefits for occupancy which, again, is going to mainly hit the younger people; we have the loss of the Future Jobs Fund adding to the unemployed in this City. All of these measures are forcing working class young people into difficulty and, in some cases, genuine penury. But what convinced me that these decisions are political are two events in particular:

First, the cuts to council tax benefits where the elderly are exempt, but where, therefore, all the remaining cuts fall on the younger element; and this isn't Tory humanity at work here exempting the elderly, it is pure, undiluted politics to shift the burden of the cuts, not to the rich, but onto the young.

The second thing that convinced me is David Cameron's ill thought out proposal to remove housing benefits from the under 25s, aimed simply as throwing red meat at baying Tory back benchers. The proposal is

completely impractical and I'm not going to talk about children coming out of care who have no family to go back to, I'm not even going to talk about young people who are not in care but still have no parental homes to go to. My view is that, if this measure were ever implemented, even the Tories would introduce exemptions for these groups but who would make the decision, no-one knows. No, what I'm talking about is the 4,036 housing benefit claimants under 25 in the City at the moment, 1,516 of whom are in Council accommodation and they would have to find £64 per week, and 2,520 of whom are in private accommodation and they would have to be finding £91 a week. Many of these people have children; they will not be able to find this sort of money overnight in an economy with few jobs and low wages. So what you would end up with is large scale homelessness, which is where the question was leading. We would end up with upheaval in schools and children's education. We would end up with a massive transfer of responsibility to Councils because we have the ultimate statutory responsibility for this group, and homeless and vulnerable would be among them, and we have just not got the resources to respond.

Already we are seeing an inevitable increase in housing aid referrals, up 16%. An increased in homeless acceptances, up 7%, and a 17% increase in prevention work on last year, and a lot of punitive government measures have not yet kicked in, so it is going to get worse and we are not exceptional, every other city is facing the same problem.

Now where I do agree with the government is that a life on benefits, unless you are elderly and/or disabled, is not desirable. It is actually corrosive, with that I do agree with the government. But the government misses three points:

First, most people on housing benefit, other than the retired, are in low paid work, so cutting it would be a disincentive to work, the opposite of what the government says it is trying to do. I heard a figure this morning which I didn't quite believe, that actually only 1 in 9 young people on benefit were actually not in work. I find that difficult to believe, but it does give you some measure that most people are, undoubtedly, in work.

Second, is that it is interesting that the cost of private sector renting is 50% more than in the public sector. The last government is guilty of not realising the cost effectiveness of public sector housing to the public purse. This one is the same, if not worse. The best way of reducing the massive housing benefit bill, which has to be reduced, I do understand

that, and it is laudable to try and reduce it, but it is not to create chaos and deny the under 25s en masse as a group. It is simply to build social housing and in so doing you kick start the economy at the same time, and it saves you, in Nottingham, a third on your housing benefit bill. That is one of the ways of resolving this problem, not hitting the under 25s indiscriminately.

But, finally, the ultimate solution is decent jobs with decent wages. There is a massive gap in government policy in this area, both in terms of the macro economy, although we are grateful for what's happened this week, and it is plan b in any other name but, unfortunately, it's plan b minus, we are grateful but we shouldn't be too grateful, because it is plan b minus, but it is through jobs and training schemes. The problem is government policy at the moment is far too reliant on a reduced amount of money, being investment on dubious jobs agencies who seem more interested in their profits than the young people they are dealing with.

We all agree in this chamber that jobs are critical to dignity, to self respect and to independence, there is unanimity. That is why we are announcing today, and I thank all the Portfolio Holders for the work they've done on this, we are announcing today two additional one off amounts of £½ million this year and next year to be put into the Councils Jobs Fund to help young people in to jobs. The £½ million we've got this year has been used exceptionally well, there are cases of families whose lives have been turned round, and Councillor McCulloch can give you examples, as a result of our jobs' scheme. Therefore, another £½ million, bringing the scheme up to £1 million this year, and £1 million next year, is probably one of the best uses of resources that we could possibly make and it has come about as a consequence of our ability to reduce our costs last year in a one-off way, not in substantial way, so we shouldn't get too excited, but a one-off way. So I say to the chamber, and this is going to create 80 jobs a year by the way for the next 2 years, if the government cannot help our young at least we will do our bit, this City is behind our young if the government is punishing them. Thank you.

## **Reintroduction of CSEs and 'O' Levels**

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

Can the Portfolio Holder comment on how Michael Gove's plans to reintroduce CSEs and 'O' Levels would benefit the young people of Nottingham?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:

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

The simple answer to your question is that the proposals by Michael Gove to reintroduce 'O' Levels and CSEs will not benefit young people in Nottingham. In fact, it will be a very backwards step for our young people in the City, and for the prosperity of Nottingham.

It would be amusing, if it were not serious, that the Secretary of State for Education seems to base his educational policy proposals for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century on his own experience of the education system of the 1970s. It clearly served him well, but it will not serve the majority of children and young people of Nottingham well, or help us to build the Nottingham of the future.

The system of 'O' Levels and CSEs was a two tier system, part of a system of Grammar and Secondary modern schools, that labelled many children as academic failures at eleven, and often left many adults with a feeling of failure in later life.

He has created a system through his Academies Act that leaves many schools with no real accountability. Much of the legislation, for example, the curriculum offer or the hours of provision, do not apply to free schools and academies. Although some new models of school governance have brought about improvements in standards, and we have evidence of that here in Nottingham, the fact that they do not have to follow any curriculum change that the government introduces, when he is encouraging all schools to change their governance in this way, makes his determination to change the curriculum at best puzzling and, at worst, a waste of money.

The present GCSE system covers the range of grades that would have been achieved through the 'O' Level and CSE system, but does not put a teacher in the position of entering a youngster in for one or the other at an early stage, a decision that had life long implications for some young people in the past.

It is my privilege as a Portfolio Holder for children and young people to visit schools on a regular basis and I do see the fantastic and diverse range of opportunities on offer for our children in the City. I also sometimes get the opportunity to speak to business leaders in the City, and they do not ask for young people who have 'O' Levels instead of GCSEs to join their companies. They ask for youngsters who are literate and numerate, yes, but also those who are confident, who are good team players, who can work using their own initiative, who have lots of ideas, who are familiar with the ever changing technology and who are ready for work. An 'O' Level in Latin has never been a request from any employer that I've met.

Michael Gove has already devalued many vocational qualifications in his other misguided recent policies. For example, his downgrading of engineering has caused a real outcry from many quarters, at a time when this is an area where we need more of our young people to choose this as a career pathway, and we will see later on this evening, as we make Nat Puri a Freeman of the City, how important engineering is. At a time when engineering skills are so vital we are taking it away as a core subject. He is also not ensuring we have the technical expertise to enable us to compete in a global economy. His cancellation of the funding for supporting work experience means that our youngsters face a postcode lottery as to whether they get the proven benefit of time in the workplace whilst still at school.

We have just secured the City Deal for Nottingham, an investment of £60 million. The children and young people in our schools are the ones who will convert this investment into sustainable growth and prosperity for the City. Our creative quarter will focus on businesses that need skills and attributes that were unheard of in Mr Gove's school days; young people who are able to develop products with technologies that have not yet even been thought about, they will need to be creative problem solvers, innovators and flexible thinkers with high level technical skills. This morning, as Councillor Collins has reported, we have launched our growth plan for the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nottingham and its economy. For that we need young people with skills ready to face the challenges we face today, not the rose tinted learning experiences of the privileged few 40 years ago.

As political leaders and representatives in this City, we should not be jumping to the tune of outdated, ill informed ideologies. We should be looking at the future skills needed in our City and being brave enough to

support our schools and colleges to design, develop and provide the curriculum opportunities and qualification framework that will meet the needs of the City in the future.

### **Installation of sprinklers in social housing**

Councillor Grocock asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Adults, Housing and the Community Sector:

Would the Portfolio Holder comment on the opportunities available around the installation of sprinklers in future social and council housing development and what he believes the benefits of this would be?

Councillor Liversidge replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord Mayor.

I think I'm answering a question that you have been immersed in for several months now as part of the Fire Authority.

Up until quite recently, I did believe the myths about fire extinguishers in private homes; I looked at the American TV shows where you see people being flooded out by putting a lighter up to an alarm. We now know that this is not the way it works, it's completely invisible within the home and it works on heat, and it isolates each room. The actual benefits of this are that it saves lives quicker, it's cheaper than bringing the fire brigade out, it uses less water, it reduces damage to property because it stays in a room, and it is saving money both for the fire brigade and the housing authorities who want to put it in. For this reason, Nottingham City Homes and Nottingham City Council have been working with the Nottingham Fire and Rescue Service to develop three initiatives at the moment, which include:

- in our new council builds; I am expecting a report to come with a recommendation on how we can put it in to all new builds, and how it will be a benefit to those new builds and be part of the future;
- for sheltered schemes, schemes for older people, there are grants that the fire brigade are providing and we're hoping to invest some of £50,000 grant to do some work to retrofit sprinklers within old people's sheltered schemes;

- we're also looking at retrofitting in high-rises. In Sheffield they've retrofitted a tower block with these quite successfully and our officers have been to visit to see how it works in high-rise blocks.

These three initiatives may only be the start of this because I think in the future all houses will be built with these schemes, but we're now moving on with that.

### **Publishing Council expenditure above £500**

Councillor Culley asked the following question of the Leader:

We are delighted that the Leader and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government seem to have settled their differences in order to secure the unprecedented levels of investment that the City Deal promises to bring, and we of course salute the work of the Government and the Council in conjunction with the LEP in order to achieve this. However, in view of this renewed spirit of friendship, might the Leader of the Council now consider finally granting the Secretary of State's wish that he publish all council expenditure above £500?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord Mayor.

I am quite happy to consider it but I suspect that the answer is likely to be the same: no.

### **Review of parking charges and the Workplace Parking Levy**

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

In light of the excellent opportunities for business growth in the City afforded by the agreement on the City Deal, would the Portfolio Holder agree that it might be an opportunity to completely review parking charges in the City Centre, including the Workplace Parking Levy, with a view to encouraging rather than discouraging businesses and their customers?

Councillor Urquhart replied as follows:



Thank you, Councillor Parton for your question and it really wouldn't be Council without Councillor Parton asking me a question about Workplace Parking Levy would it?

Now, Nottingham is an ambitious city with excellent opportunities for business growth, and this opportunity has not only been created by the City Deal and the Growth Plan that we have already heard about today, it has been created by the vision, that we have had for many years now, as Nottingham as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century European city, and we know that a first class transport infrastructure is a key part of that growth potential. That's why we've pursued the building of 2 more tram lines, that's why we started to renovate Nottingham station, that's why we've made sure we have a great bus network, including a link bus network, that's why we lobbied hard for the A453 and the ring road improvements, and why we continue to lobby for the needed improvements to the Midland Mainline. That investment in the tram and the station is good for our City now, in terms of the jobs already created, and good for our city's economy in the future. So the City Deal is great news, but it is not the only thing that will drive our economy, it builds on the foundation that we have already set, and whilst it will be a major component in ensuring that we are able to deliver our ambitious plans for growth, it's there we were able to develop that City Deal precisely because we already had that vision, and we already had that foundation upon which to build.

Now, much of the funding in the City Deal will focus on supporting the growth of business directly, but there are also transport elements of the deal, totalling approximately £8 million. Again, a signal that transport infrastructure is absolutely crucial to our future economic development. Growth in the City Centre is a key priority within the Growth Plan too and a steering group, including Nottingham City Council, the retail and leisure BIDs and Invest in Nottingham, has been established since February of the year to develop a strategy aiming to grow the retail sector and addressing the issues as a whole for our whole City Centre.

So, as ever, the Tories in this case are following the news, rather than creating it. They will know, surely, through answers that I have given previously that we have been committed to reviewing our City Centre car parking arrangements for some time. In the retail steering group discussions this has already been a topic that we have actively covered. The retail and leisure BIDs commissioned a study into parking and that report has now been published and been sent through to us in the City Council. That study revealed that parking prices in Nottingham City were

broadly comparable with neighbouring cities, notwithstanding that, we are now working with our BID partners and the Invest in Nottingham retail forum on measures which we think will encourage even more people to come into our City Centre and to park under a more simplified and simple system. I will be hoping to make more announcements in more detail about this later in the week, appropriately with our BID partners.

Both the Tories and the BBC manage to confuse the Workplace Parking Levy and City Centre on-street parking. Now, for the BBC, I can understand that, it's just one more story, isn't it, amongst a busy schedule, but for the Tories to confuse really does indicate how little attention they must pay to the many previous times that I have spoken about both things in this chamber and elsewhere over the past few years. So, I'll just make it very very easy. The Workplace Parking Levy is a pioneering measure which charges employers according to their level of car parking space, and is funding 2 more lines of the tram, the station and the link buses and, through this, will tackle congestion, which itself costs our economy £160 million per year. On-street parking charges, on the other hand, are in place to ensure that the spaces on the street are available for people to use in order that they can come in to shop, to eat, to see a film or go to the theatre, and not find that all the spaces have already been taken by someone that has left their car there for the whole of the day. They are also only a very small part of the overall car parking spaces available in our City Centre.

So, that sorted, I guess I ought to deal with the Workplace Parking Levy. Money raised from the Levy has been ring-fenced for local transport improvements, for example, building the business sector's priority of 2 more tram lines, so is Councillor Parton or the Tories suggesting that we should stop building those lines now? That we cancel the millions of pounds of contracts that local businesses have won to build those lines? That the hundreds of people, many of them local, employed now building the tram should face losing their jobs? Or do the Conservatives think that maybe paying for 2 more lines of the tram should be funded by our Council Tax payers, a huge hike in Council Tax payments for every citizen of this City? Or should it be paid for by selling off our City's assets? Or does he think we should ask the government for more money? Well, perhaps he has become a Keynesian, but I doubt it. The Workplace Parking Levy is what pays our local contribution for this project. We are asking our employers to make a small contribution, less than 1% of turnover in the majority of business's cases, to enable this project and others. The 2 new tram lines will reduce congestion, the

congestion that costs our businesses millions, so it is right that large employers and businesses make some contribution to resolving this issue. And do the Tories really think that the £60 million of City Deal money can fund that investment in lines 2 and 3 of the tram, a £½ billion project? Workplace Parking Levy will raise, on average, about £12 million per year, so I guess we could use all of the City Deal money. I don't know what my colleagues Councillor Collins, Councillor Chapman and Councillor McDonald would think but, of course, we could use all of that money to fund lines 2 and 3 of the tram but it would run out after 5 years, and the tram would still not be paid for under the private finance initiative scheme, what would the Tories do then? So, the Workplace Parking Levy also funds the redevelopment of Nottingham station, do the Tories think that that should stop too? That the apprenticeships and training opportunities created should be scrapped? Or, again, where do they think the money should come from for that necessary work? And the Workplace Parking Levy funds the link bus network, moving millions of people around our City, connecting those who live in places where there is not a commercial bus network with work opportunities, connecting them with hospitals, connecting them with shops. Would the Tories scrap the link buses? The local Workplace Parking Levy funding was essential to release £500 million investment in transport infrastructure that we got to build the tram. Those transport investments are clearly aligned with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century infrastructure theme of both the City Deal and our Growth Plan and they will give Nottingham a clear competitive edge in attracting business and jobs. So, no, I won't be rethinking the Workplace Parking Levy, I will be continuing to make the necessary investment in our City which, along with the City Deal, will ensure that our City is both environmentally and economically sustainable into the future.

So, Councillor Parton, in short, yes, we are already reviewing City Centre on-street car parking charges and no, we won't review the Workplace Parking Levy.

### **5 term school year**

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

Could the Portfolio Holder update the Council on the progress of negotiations with teachers and their unions with regards to the introduction of the five-term school year?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:

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

I would firstly refer her to my answer to her question at the June full Council recorded in today's papers where I updated Council with the position up to the end of May. The outcome of the discussions with the NUT at the end of May under the auspices of ACAS, was an agreement to formally reconvene a consultative meeting with all trade unions to explore up to three alternative models for school terms and holidays.

There have been two of these meetings during June, both chaired by ACAS and attended by the majority of unions representing the workforce. At the first of these meetings on 14 June, three alternative models to the current system of term and holiday patterns and to the five term year were put forward for discussion. These were considered and an alternative pattern based on a shorter summer holiday of 5 weeks, a 2 week break in October and a fixed Spring break not determined by Easter, was the pattern most favoured as meriting further examination. The Council agreed to produce a 3 year roll forward of this pattern.

Unions met again on 28 June and at that meeting 5 of the 8 unions representing the school workforce indicated that they were willing to support the alternative pattern. We have held further meetings with unions that are not yet signed up to this alternative model in an attempt to secure consensus and will continue to do so. Should we gain that agreement, we may hold a short further public consultation on that alternative model. The Council considers the position of most trade unions to be constructive and wishes to seek collective agreement with the workforce on the revised model. However, unless and until that agreement is reached, our current policy of changing to a 5 term year in August next year remains. Our commitment to the best holiday pattern for the children of this City, one that maximises education potential, and minimises the difficulties the long summer holidays causes many City families remains our priority.

### **Income from the hire of Wollaton Hall for filming**

Councillor Culley asked the following question of the Leader:

We are delighted that the Leader of the Council is keen to welcome the world's television and film producers to our magnificent Wollaton Park and Hall, but does he agree that city residents, who are always inconvenienced as a consequence of such use, deserve to know just what income we receive from such investment and how this would then be spent?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord Mayor.

Of course the public are entitled to know what income the City Council receives from any source, subject, of course, to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 on the confidentiality of commercial contracts.

As for what the money's being spent on, I think I made it clear at the last meeting, that it will help to fund the upkeep of Wollaton Hall, which otherwise runs at a deficit.

### **32 DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER THE URGENCY PROCEDURE**

The report of the Leader, as set out on pages 128 to 130 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.**

### **33 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12**

The report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out on pages 131 and 132 of the agenda, and the separate appendix, was submitted.

**RESOLVED that, on the motion of Councillor Parbutt, seconded by Councillor Klein, the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2011-12 be accepted.**

### **34 MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR CLARK**

Moved by Councillor Clark, seconded by Councillor Ball:

“This Council welcomes the Local Government Association’s Climate Local initiative that builds on the Nottingham Declaration that over 90% of councils have signed up to. It is proud of its record of community leadership through its first Energy Strategy (passed on 12 July 2012), and of its Secure, Warm, Modern programme for its own housing stock.

In adopting Climate Change Nottingham this Council sets its priorities as:

- saving on everyone’s energy bills by insulating homes, helping residents pick the cheapest tariff, and taking up energy company obligations;
- improving standards of health particularly for the fuel poor;
- developing alternative energy sources to provide an income to the City Council as well as increasing energy self sufficiency and security;
- encouraging research, development and fledgling businesses in the green tech sector to provide more jobs;
- reducing flood risk and, with partners, planning for extreme weather;
- protecting our natural environment in keeping with our social and economic aspirations.

In order to meet this ambition, the Executive Board shall receive an initial assessment of achievements to date and set out its aspirations and future actions in the form of a revised Energy Strategy that continues this city’s national leadership in energy and sustainability.”

**RESOLVED that the motion be carried.**

The meeting concluded at 4.35 pm

# MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Nottingham,

on Monday 9 July 2012 at 5.00 pm

## ATTENDANCES

✓ Councillor Unczur	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 Urquhart
✓ Councillor Jenkins	✓ Councillor Watson
Councillor Johnson	✓ Councillor Wildgust
✓ Councillor Jones	✓ Councillor K Williams
✓ Councillor Khan	✓ Councillor S Williams
✓ Councillor Klein	✓ Councillor Wood

### **35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fox, Johnson and Longford.

### **36 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interests were made.

### **37 MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR CHAPMAN**

Moved by Councillor Chapman, seconded by Councillor McDonald:

“That Professor Nathu Puri, being a person of distinction within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972, be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the City of Nottingham.

That a Certificate of Admission, in a suitable casket, be presented to Professor Nathu Puri at a presentation ceremony immediately after the appointment on 9 July 2012.”

**RESOLVED that the motion be carried.**

The meeting concluded at 5.50 pm