

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Nottingham,

on Monday 8 July 2013 at 2.00 pm

ATTENDANCES

✓ Councillor Bryan	Lord Mayor
✓ Councillor Ali	✓ Councillor McCulloch
Councillor Arnold	✓ Councillor McDonald
✓ Councillor Aslam	✓ Councillor Malcolm
Councillor Ball	✓ Councillor Mellen
✓ Councillor Battlemuch	Councillor Molife
✓ Councillor Campbell	✓ Councillor Morley
✓ Councillor Chapman	✓ Councillor Morris
✓ Councillor Choudhry	✓ Councillor Neal
✓ Councillor Clark	✓ Councillor Norris
✓ Councillor Collins	✓ Councillor Ottewell
✓ Councillor Culley	✓ Councillor Packer
✓ Councillor Dewinton	Councillor Parbutt
✓ Councillor Edwards	✓ Councillor Piper
✓ Councillor Gibson	✓ Councillor Saghir
✓ Councillor Grocock	✓ Councillor D Smith
✓ Councillor Hartshorne	✓ Councillor W 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 Webster
✓ Councillor Khan	✓ Councillor Wildgust
✓ Councillor Klein	✓ Councillor K Williams
✓ Councillor Liversidge	✓ Councillor S Williams
✓ Councillor Longford	✓ Councillor Wood

27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Arnold, Ball, Klein, Molife, Parbutt, Spencer and Urquhart.

28 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

29 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM CITIZENS

Questions from citizens

The following questions from citizens were received:

Anti-social behaviour reports to 101

The following question was asked by Mr M Siebert to the Leader:

Can you confirm that all calls made by the public to report anti-social behaviour on the police 101 number are formally logged and where appropriate forwarded on to the HMO licensing team?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:

Can I thank Mr Seibert for his question. The City Council and Nottinghamshire Police City Division have a single integrated approach to ASB reporting through the 101 number.

All calls received on this number are formally logged and cases then passed to the most appropriate resource. The Police and Council aim to deal with ASB at the earliest point using the 5-stage approach of ask, warn, initially enforce, substantively enforce and breach.

The first response to call about ASB is usually from neighbourhood policing teams made up of Police, PCSO and City Council Community Protection Officers. Where they become aware the property is a HMO and there may be action necessary by the HMO team, information is shared with them.

The HMO team respond to housing and ASB issues associated with HMOs as well as administering the licensing of them. Officers

provide advice and carry out enforcement and compliance action where appropriate to ensure the safety of tenants and contribute to safe and clean neighbourhoods. The HMO team also take referrals directly from the public, Council colleagues and partners about both licensed and non-licensed HMOs and will act where necessary and appropriate.

Maroon bus line through Dunkirk

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

Would the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Transportation acknowledge that despite recent service disruption on the Maroon Line through Dunkirk, that no major changes to the service will take place before the tram is operating on a regular basis?

In light of Councillor Urquhart's apologies for the meeting, Councillor Collins replied as follows:

Can I thank Mr Patman for his question. I am aware that there is significant concern locally about proposals by NCT to divert Service 14 on the Maroon line from Dunkirk outbound via Derby Road rather than Beeston Road.

I understand that the proposal has been made because numbers of passengers on the Maroon line have seriously declined over the last few years. The attractiveness of Service 14 has been reduced because of competing services by both NCT (for example Service 34), and Trent Barton (for example Skylink), and also because tram works on University Boulevard have made reliable timings more difficult.

The new Service 14 will still serve Abbey Bridge, Abbey Street, and Beeston Road to Nottingham City Centre but I accept that there will nevertheless still be a significant number of users of the old service that will find the new route much less convenient. As a result, and although decisions on changing routes and services are entirely for the bus operator to make, I am happy to meet the Managing Director of NCT to discuss any other possible options.

Changes to the Maroon Line 13/14

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

In the event of any change to the Maroon Line 13/14 service could the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Transportation explain the decision making process behind any change, the criteria used for the decision, and the full reasoning for any such decision to change the service. Also in the event of any change to the service could the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Transportation give a clear and detailed outline of the notice period and consultation process for people in those areas affected by the change.

In light of Councillor Urquhart's apologies for the meeting, Councillor Collins replied as follows:

Can I thank Mr Patman for his question. I understand that NCT have said that they intend to make changes to the Maroon line service 13/14 for financial reasons and to reduce the losses they say are already being made on the route. NCT claim that the Maroon line has lost about a third of its customers since 2010 even though NCT as a whole has increased patronage by some 5%.

Unfortunately as a result of the bus deregulation legislation brought in by the last Conservative government, there is no requirement to consult with local communities on changes to routes and services. NCT must register any changes to services with the Traffic Commissioners 56 days in advance. In addition they should also inform the Council 90 days in advance to allow the Council to consider emergency tendered replacement services. As NCT have indicated that they are proposing to make the changes on 1 September, they are still within that 90 day period of notification with the City Council.

As I said in my last response, I appreciate that these changes are causing local concern and will prove inconvenient to some current users. So although the legislation means that this decision is entirely one for NCT to make, I am nevertheless happy to commit to meeting with the Managing Director of NCT to discuss the matter.

Petitions from Councillors on behalf of citizens

Councillor Clark submitted a petition on behalf of 724 signatories, requesting improvements to tackling dog fouling from residents of Heronridge and Rise Park.

30 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2013, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Lord Mayor.

31 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Chief Executive reported the following communications:

Ken Martin Leisure Centre

Ken Martin Leisure Centre has been independently assessed by QUEST and been rated as 'good'. This is our first assessment under the new criteria and is a pleasing result as it is our first assessment.

Museums and Galleries Service

The Museums and Galleries Service has been awarded £125,000 supported by the Digital Research and Development Fund for the Arts. Planning is underway to bring a group of leading designers to develop a test for *Augmented Reality* applications for a new gallery at Nottingham Castle. Planning is underway for the project and it will commence in October 2013 and last for a year.

32 QUESTIONS

Armed Forces Day

Councillor Grocock asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture:

Could the portfolio holder for Leisure and Culture feedback to Council about the success of Armed Forces Day?

Councillor Trimble replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank Councillor Grocock for his question. I also want to thank him for his support for Armed Forces Day right from the beginning. It was not just Armed Forces Day, it was Armed Forces Week and I want to publicly thank my assistant Councillor Cat Arnold, who I know is not here, for doing a fantastic job in covering for me whilst I was away for part of the week, making welcoming speeches at the flag raising event at Wollaton Hall and the 'wear your uniform to work day' at the Castle. As well as being interviewed on Radio Nottingham, the feedback I have is that she was excellent on all occasions.

I hope all of you will agree that Saturday 29 June was a fantastic day and Nottingham proudly led the country in paying tribute to the armed forces.

The spirit of the day, the family atmosphere and the welcome that Nottingham's citizens gave was exceptional. There are many memories that I will take away. The march into the Square led by The Grenadier Guards, The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery with their magnificent horses riding through Nottingham, the amazing flypasts by the Red Arrows, four Typhoons in diamond formation, a Dakota, Lancaster, Hurricanes, Spitfires, Lynx helicopter and a Swordfish bi-plane. It was magical.

On the Embankment everybody was completely captivated with their eyes transfixed on the aircrafts as they dived, swooped and swept around and came back again. I looked around and time after time the response was the same, there were great big smiles and looks of incredulity on their faces, they could not believe that this was happening in Nottingham, right above their heads.

Many have mentioned the exceptional welcome the armed forces received and I know that many in the services were bowled over by the reception they received from the Nottingham people and the large crowds that turned out for them. The crowds were exceptional and the entertainment was varied and diverse. There was much to see and do and it made for a fantastic day and the spirit of the event carried on through the evening to a big night out in the City Centre.

At the last full Council I explained that we wanted to attract around 40,000 and with a bit of good weather and a fair wind we could double

that. In the end we smashed that, with Showsec security confirming attendance of over 100,000 with 16,000 at the Castle and the Square and 84,000 coming and going on the Embankment with 45,000 there at the peak.

I wanted to ensure that we received national and international coverage for the City in hosting the event. On the day we were covered on the hour every hour live by Sky News, BBC Reports both national and locally, ITV and the British Forces Broadcasting too. The coverage we received in National and Regional Press was amazing. On Twitter Nottingham Armed Forces was up there trending the whole day.

Economically the City was buzzing and we know that many hotels were fully booked with people attending the event, the bars and restaurants were very busy throughout the day and evening. I am told that many of the armed forces personnel had a thoroughly good night too.

Nottingham has once again shown that we can stage large national events, generate positive international and national coverage for the City, attract visitors to the area and provide an exceptional event for the people of Nottingham. I believe the National Armed Forces event has allowed many to see what a great city Nottingham is.

A full evaluation of the event is being compiled and we had a number of volunteer teams out undertaking surveys on the day to help us review and research more fully the impact of the event.

The National Armed Forces event follows on the City's remarkable series of events held and run in the City, including the great show we put on for the Olympic torch relay, the Diamond Jubilee, the Tour of Britain and the revival this year of the Milk Race. Looking ahead on Wednesday we have the first Ashes Test at Trent Bridge with Splendour at the magnificent Wollaton Hall on 20 July with our very own Jake Bugg headlining, the Nottingham Riviera, the Nottingham GB Archery finals, the National Cross-Country finals, the Robin Hood Festival, the Riverside Festival including a new sports zone area, the return of the full marathon and the Beer Festival.

As our specially commissioned video for the Armed Forces Day stated "Hats Off To Our Heroes" and hats off to Nottingham for putting on such a great show. We think it was the best Armed Forces Day ever and it happened here in Nottingham.

Funding for childcare

Councillor Saghir asked the following question of the Deputy Leader:

Could the Deputy Leader explain to Council why the government is proposing to exclude those earning less than £10,000 from funding for childcare?

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:

Can I thank Councillor Saghir for his question. Rarely do you come across a piece of policy that is incompetent, perverse and unjust all in one fell swoop. Well these childcare proposals receive this triple accolade. The government has announced a new tax-free childcare scheme for working families; the government will provide 20% of working families' childcare costs up to £1,200 for each child.

This is the equivalent of basic tax relief on childcare costs of up to £6,000 a year at 20%. The scheme will ultimately be open to about 2.5 million working families in the UK. Households in which both parents work but do not receive support through tax credits or universal credit, once it is established, will be eligible so long as neither parent earns, wait for it, £150,000 per year.

The new system will be phased in from autumn 2015 partly funded by the phasing out of the ESC system. From the first year of operation, all children under 5 will be eligible, disabled children under 16 will also be eligible which is a good thing. So the positives are that it will help more parents than the current employer scheme, again which is a good thing. The negatives are that both parents must be in work, if one parent is in training or education they do not qualify. This is the absurdity of it – it precludes those on universal credit with anyone in the household earning less than £10,000, they will not benefit.

There are, we calculate, between a 1,000 and 2,000 families in Nottingham who will not gain. Contrast this with the analysis by the Resolution Foundation which shows that the 80% that will benefit from this new support from 2015 are in the top half of the working household income distribution. In other words, it is going to the better off. They will be able to claim back 20% of their childcare costs up to £6,000 per child. In fact even families with incomes up to £300,000 will be eligible for extra

support. So if you earn £300,000 or just less in a household with two working parents you get £1,200. If you are a mid to low earner you get a top up of an extra 15% of costs up to 85%. If you are a low earner with one parent part time and earning below £10,000 you will not get any extra. Families where both parents work who qualify for tax credits and universal credit and one parent earns below the income tax threshold set to be £10,000 and the other does not, you get nothing extra.

A sensible government could have taken one of two sensible steps. Lowering the income cap to exclude the more high income families. This would have freed up money to invest in those on low and modest incomes who face the highest barriers to work because of childcare costs. The Government maintains that it would have been administratively complex to exclude all but the richest families, those with one or more earners earning and paying the top rate of tax, but it saw fit to create a new threshold for means tested benefit quite recently so it is not impossible to do this.

Secondly, the Government could have taken the nearly £1 billion cost of the new proposals together with the £750 million currently being spent on the employer support voucher and it could have funded an extension of universal entitlement to almost 10 hours so everybody would have benefited equally. Instead it chose to squander millions on the better off, many of whom do not need this support. So much for the good use of public funds in austerity. Second, they are creating layers of bureaucracy as there will now be two levels of childcare support within universal credit. In addition, there is a promise to support middle and higher income families.

In addition, there is also a third funding stream which will remain unchanged by the budget. This provides 50 hours of free universal childcare for three and four year olds. A new administrative system will be needed to ensure that parents can only claim support once for each child. So much for clearing out red tape.

Finally, if you are a lower income family with one parent working full time and earning above £10,000 and another part time earning below, you will not be eligible for additional support; In fact it is in your interest to declare that you are not living together so that the one who pays qualifies. This does nothing to support the concept of family that the Conservatives say that they wish to uphold. So I will finish where I started, it is incompetent, it is perverse and it is an unjust proposal. Its saving grace is that it will

not be enacted until 2015 until after the general election. There is hope therefore that some sanity may be restored.

NHS in Nottingham

Councillor Edwards asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Adults and Health:

Last Friday marked the 65th anniversary of the NHS. How fares the NHS in Nottingham?

Councillor Norris replied as follows:

Thanks Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Edwards for your question. Happy birthday to the NHS. I think the NHS sums up the very best of British values, certainly the value I'm most proud is that if the person in front of you falls down then you reach down with your hand to help them up. I think that is embodied in the NHS, I think it's an incredible statement and totem of our values. So how do we fare in Nottingham? Well I'm happy to report that we are faring admirably.

The NHS is in an incredible period of change; Upon election in 2010, the Prime Minister, David Cameron promised that there would be no top down restructure, no messy reorganisation of the service, a promise that, like so many others he would break very quickly. Instead we have seen extraordinary changes to the way in which the health services in this City and this country are ordered. Despite that, and all the need to make all those changes work and get ready for those changes, we are still doing very well in Nottingham.

We've now got a Health and Wellbeing Strategy that has been drawn together across agencies that I think will put us in good stead to really improve outcomes in our City. Similarly we see that statistics around operation cancellations have improved, referrals for cancer patients and referrals to specialists are all trending in the right direction. We see a score card for the last year that is very much an improved picture.

But I am concerned Lord Mayor, and I know that others are in this Chamber, that we are at a bit of a tipping point for health services in this City and in this country because we know that we're starting to see unprecedented pressures on the service. In particular, we know in this Chamber that all councils have been hammered on their funding,

especially councils like ours which have great needs for its health services. So as a result, you see up and down the country that there have been pressures on social care budgets so where do these older and more vulnerable people go if they do not get the care from their council. Well of course, they do not just sit at home, they go to hospitals sooner than they need to or they go later than they need to for treatment that is more expensive than it needs to be. That is putting incredible pressure and strain on our services.

So what do we see from our Government? Is our Government like us, standing up for our health services? Is it like us, proud of our health services? I don't think it is. I'm alarmed that you don't have to look very often on the internet or the BBC website or read your newspapers to see the indecent haste that every time a small element of service failure is made public, the indecent haste with which Government ministers queue up to slam the services, to slam the people working to make those services the best they can be.

Why do they do this? They do this for a very simple reason, that there is an orchestrated campaign in the media and you can see it across newspapers, there is an orchestrated campaign to talk down the National Health Service, to try and undermine confidence in the National Health Service to the point where the Government can carry on breaking it up as it has done over the last three years to the point where they can start selling it off by saying that, "look, it just does not work anymore, nice idea back in 1945, 65 years later after its inception it does not work, you need to move on". Oliver Letwin, the former Shadow Chancellor, one of the - and I have to say this without snorting - the brains behind the 'Cameronista' operation, if not an oxymoron in terms, was very clear on that before the last election in telling members of his local Conservative Association that within five years of a Tory government there would be no NHS at all.

Now that is not quite going to come to pass in those terms, fingers crossed, however it shows where they are "so how fares the NHS in Nottingham?" will come down over the next few years to one fundamental question, who is right? Is David Cameron right, is David Cameron right in thinking that he can undermine the service to the point where people will give up on it, or is Aneurin Bevan, my political hero, founder of the NHS, right, in saying that 'there will be an NHS alive and well for as long as folk are prepared to fight for it.' I believe in this City. We can say that the NHS will fare well in the future because, with clear

eyes and full hearts people in our City will stand up for it, will value it, do see the impact that it has in our community and for as long as that is the case, the NHS will fare well.

NET Development

Councillor Culley asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Jobs and Growth:

As the cost of Line 1 was in the region of £245m, and the costs for lines 2 and 3 could feasibly reach the total maximum scheme cost of £570m, could the portfolio holder inform us what further additional lines that he proposes might cost, and how these additional lines would be funded? Will he be considering further burdening Nottingham's businesses with the bill in the manner of the Workplace Parking Levy?

Councillor McDonald replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Culley for your question. It is good to see the Tories taking such a keen interest in the City's growth agenda. Can I also thank Councillor Culley for reminding us all just how much money has been levered into the City as a result of the three lines of the tram and how much these lines have done to generate growth in Nottingham; I am grateful. Now Councillor Culley, I'm sure you wouldn't expect me to miss the opportunity to join you in outlining that benefit. So let's just remind ourselves exactly what the tram has done in Nottingham.

The cost of NET Line One, which has now been operating for nearly 10 years, was approximately £200million and this was funded almost entirely from Government sources, with some help from the County Council, and it has been a huge success. It carries 10 million passengers a year, it connects Bulwell and Hucknall to the City, it provides nearly 3,000 park and ride places, it has a 94% satisfaction rating, it has reduced congestion and it has encouraged regeneration along its route. In fact I live directly on line 1, I use it everyday and I do so along with thousands of other residents because its first class, because it's clean, it's reliable and an excellent demonstration of why Nottingham is a forward thinking and ambitious City.

So how about NET Phase 2, so as Councillor Culley states, NET Phase 2 will cost in total about £570 million potentially, and again, the vast

majority of that funding will come from Government though as I'm sure we will all recall, this time without the help of the County Council that was at the time under Tory governance. What does that mean overall? What that means is that the tram has levered into the City over £500 million, over half a billion pounds of new money into the City, creating opportunities for local suppliers and creating jobs. It also means that by the end of 2014 the City will have a tram network which will make a significant contribution to the local economy, be the envy of other cities across the UK and Europe, and which will support our strategy for economic growth in the future.

It will benefit all of Nottingham citizens, it will help create a strong economy in the future and allow us to continue to be the least car dependent City in the UK.

As for further lines, well on the basis of what I have just outlined, what sensible political party would not support the idea of further lines in the future and of course the idea of further extensions is not new. It is set out in the Aligned Core Strategy's plan for the whole region and future lines could make very good sense given all that I have outlined. Now, no doubt that the economic advantage that light rail networks provide to regions is also the reason that existing lines of the tram have been supported by all parties in government even including the present coalition Government, after some persuasion. Given the emphasis that all parties are placing upon transport infrastructure at present, I would have thought that there is a high chance that if we're ambitious and bold enough this region can convince whichever party is in government to support further lines in the future.

Now I would have thought that it is pretty obvious that any additional lines could not be delivered without a main injection of external funds, be they government grants, LEP single pots, developer contributions, in the same way that lines 1, 2 and 3 were not deliverable without those funds. I would also make the points again, pretty obvious I would suggest, that any major extension of infrastructure anywhere is only possible after consideration of economic viability, a full planning process, consultation with partners and full assessment of economic benefit. Now quite what that funding model would be, we cannot know and until those processes have happened in the future, I'm sure Councillor Culley will agree that the starting point has to be a debate of what that future might consist of. Without that vision, progress does not happen.

So we've actually said it many times, of course we would like to see further lines in the future, of course we would like to see a further development of the network as unsurprisingly, we would like to see more growth in this region, better connections, more jobs, a greener City, less car dependency and less congestion. I hope that answers Councillor Culley's question.

Government's draft Deregulation Bill

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

Does the portfolio holder agree with the Government's position on responsibility for setting school term times as proposed in the draft Deregulation Bill?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank Councillor Morley for her question. The arguments about the need for different models of terms and holidays have been very well rehearsed in this Chamber. We have discussed it at length, the need for a pattern that reflects the needs of the community and to be fit for the 21st century rather than maintaining a pattern first designed for a very different time in history.

We have brought in the changed pattern which will come into operation next month so the idea behind this draft bill, an idea of change, from what is not necessarily the best condition for maximising our children's learning is one that I am sympathetic with. Do I agree with the principle of change? Yes I do. Do I believe this is the way to do it? No I do not.

I do not agree with the Government's proposal for all schools, along with academies, to set their own term patterns. As we shared with the DfE when informally consulted on these proposals in January this year, it is important schools act in a joined up way when changing their patterns.

There are two possible outcomes if this proposal becomes law. One, we could have complete chaos with lots of different models across the City and conurbation and making joint planning difficult and making things very difficult for parents. Or two, and I think this is more likely, we have complete inertia as no school wants to make a change without combining with others to do so. From the feedback we gathered when consulting on

changing our own patterns, parents of multiple children were concerned about managing holidays when their children attend different schools and follow different patterns. This has to be done in partnership and is therefore a crucial role for the Local Authority in coordinating change. A crucial role for a locally based and a locally accountable partnership organisation for education.

We went through a long and extensive period of consultation with all partners over the past two years and we've come up with a model that achieves both a change in the long summer break but which has reflected the views brought to us during that time through the consultation and which gained a majority of support, not only from parents but with the trade unions involved. Our role as a local authority was crucial to that process as the body that could bring our schools together and coordinate the proposals for change.

In reality, 69 local authority schools and learning centres will be adopting the 'Nottingham Model' and of the 40 schools in Nottingham which are academies, or are in the early stages of converting, 22 further academies have chosen to follow the 'Nottingham Model' as well. Fifteen have chosen to follow, for the moment, the traditional model still operating by Notts County Council and 3 schools are following a different pattern, 2 of which are Djanogly who already had the five-term year.

This does shows the vast majority of Nottingham academies haven't yet opted to make any drastic changes to their patterns and the majority are signed up to having the same arrangements with their neighbouring school, which is encouraging, but the number of academies who have chosen to retain this traditional model highlights the potential for inaction which I think will be the natural result of Mr Gove's proposal which is why I'm against it.

Nottingham's GCSE results

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

By the time we meet for our next City Council meeting, Nottingham's GCSE students will have received their exam results. Could the portfolio holder explain when he expects Nottingham to achieve something approaching parity with national averages regards exam results for our children?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank Councillor Morley for her second question. Thank you too for providing me with the opportunity to explain Nottingham's progress in education achievement for our young people.

The question is about GCSE results but I will cover other results as well early on in my answer. Outcomes at foundation stage, that is age 5, Key Stage 1 (age 7), Key Stage 2 (age 11) and Key Stage 4 (GCSE 16 year olds) all continue to place us in the top quartile of improvement of English local authorities both annually and over a 3 year period.

At Key Stage 2 last year, 75% of our children achieved level 4 in both English and Maths. This level would have exceeded national averages in the previous five years and was only 4 percentage points behind national averages last year.

At Key Stage 4, the proportion of pupils achieving 5 or more 'good' passes at grades A*-C has risen significantly since with more than 8 in 10 pupils, just over 80%, achieving this measure in 2012 which is less than 2 pupils in 100 below the national average which was 81.8% last year. In 1998 when we became a Local Education Authority, this figure was just 26%. A few years later in 2002 the difference between the results in Nottingham and the national average was 20 percentage points, last year it was less than 2 percentage points.

Around half of all Nottingham pupils achieved the 'gold standard' of 5 GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths in 2012, with the annual improvement since 2011 over 6 times the rate of national improvement. Around 450 more Nottingham pupils are now obtaining this measure than in 2008 and Nottingham is close to reaching the Nottingham Plan objective 'to be in the top 20% of the most improved local authorities from 2008.'

High quality schools are essential to the continuing improvement in educational outcomes. As at 31 March this year, 74% of our secondary school pupils were on roll of schools judged Good or Outstanding, in line with the regional average and just below the national of 76% of learners. In 2009 this was only 55%. Consistent, above average rates of improvement in both teaching and standards of leadership are bringing about an above average improvement in academic achievement, all things to be applauded.

In January of this year, 75% of secondary school provisions in Nottingham were academies, so although the Local Authority will continue to provide challenge, training and consultancy to help our schools respond to the continuing challenges direct accountability for academies is not with the local authority. The point of academisation to free schools from some supposed local authority control – no, that accountability is with the Department of Education in Whitehall. Mr Gove’s ambition is for all schools to become academies or free schools and for point of contact for their support and accountability being one building in Whitehall.

However, he has not quite thought it through. He has not put in place any structures to support this, there’s a log-jam in the centre and the Department of Education cannot cope with the demands on it. So now we have the Chief Inspector of Schools telling local authorities to get into those failing academies and support them and challenge them. You can’t have it both ways, Lord Mayor. When our powers and resources to do just that have been taken away, we cannot be expected to do what we once did and what we have a record of doing very well. It is a mess, it is short sighted and it shows a government which prides itself on localism rapidly becoming the most centralist in history.

We are in Nottingham and it is Nottingham’s young people that we are concerned with in this Chamber and perhaps the most important message that this data tells us is that, whatever is deemed by the national government to be the success measure of the day, the story in Nottingham is one of continuous improvement. It tells the story of our teachers, our teaching assistants, early years workers and school support staff supported by school leaders and governors expecting the best for our children and young people and providing the professionalism, dedication and commitment to help them achieve their best.

Now we are not there yet, there is more room for improvement, and there is no room for complacency. More children and young people in the City need to achieve their potential but Nottingham education standards are rising and we at the City Council will do everything we can to support that improvement.

33 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

The report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out on pages 80 to 81 of the agenda, and the appendix which had been circulated separately, were submitted.

RESOLVED that, on the motion of Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Ibrahim that the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2012/13 be accepted.

34 ARBORETUM AND RADFORD AND PARK WARDS DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACE ORDER

The report of the Leader, as set out on pages 82 to 87 of the agenda, was submitted and the appendices which had been circulated separately, were submitted.

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

- (1) alcohol related nuisance or annoyance had been caused to members of the public, and/or disorder had arisen, which had been associated with the consumption of alcohol in the proposed area covered by the order;**
- (2) the Corporate Director for Communities and the Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make and advertise the Order in accordance with the relevant Statutory processes;**
- (3) the Order take effect from 12 August 2013.**

35 DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER THE URGENCY PROCEDURES

The report of the Leader, as set out on pages 88 to 92 of the agenda, was submitted.

RESOLVED that, on the motion of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Chapman, the urgent decisions taken be noted.

36 REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The report of the Chair of the Licensing Committee, as set out on pages 93 to 98 of the agenda, and the appendix which had been circulated separately, were submitted.

RESOLVED that, on the motion of Councillor Grocock, seconded by Councillor D Smith, the release of the draft Statement of Licensing Policy for public consultation be approved.

37 APPOINTMENT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

The report of the Chair of Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee, as circulated around the Chamber, was submitted.

RESOLVED that, on the motion of Councillor Neal, seconded by Councillor Clark:

- (1) the post of permanent Corporate Director for Children and Adults be offered to Alison Michalska;**
- (2) as Corporate Director for Children and Adults, Alison Michalska fulfil the statutory roles of Director of Adult Social Services and Director of Children's Services.**

38 MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR LIVERSIDGE

Moved by Councillor Liversidge, seconded by Councillor Heaton:

“This Council calls on the government to repeal the expensive and inefficient bedroom tax.”

RESOLVED that the motion be carried.

Councillors Culley, Morley and Steel requested that their votes against the motion be recorded.

39 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED that changes to the membership of Health Scrutiny Panel, by the removal of Councillor Rosemary Healy and the appointment of Councillor Steph Williams, be noted.

40 EXECUTIVE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

RESOLVED that the following remits of the Executive Assistants be noted as follows:

- **Councillor Cat Arnold – Leisure and Culture**
- **Councillor Alex Ball – Commissioning and Voluntary Sector**
- **Councillor Rosemary Healy – Children’s Services**
- **Councillor Marcia Watson – Jobs and Growth**
- **Councillor Sam Webster – Strategic Regeneration and Community Safety.**

The meeting concluded at 4.40 pm

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Nottingham,

on Monday 8 July 2013 at 5.00 pm

ATTENDANCES

✓ Councillor Bryan	Lord Mayor
✓ Councillor Ali	✓ Councillor McCulloch
✓ Councillor Arnold	✓ Councillor McDonald
✓ Councillor Aslam	✓ Councillor Malcolm
✓ Councillor Ball	✓ Councillor Mellen
✓ Councillor Battlemuch	✓ Councillor Molife
✓ Councillor Campbell	✓ Councillor Morley
✓ Councillor Chapman	✓ Councillor Morris
✓ Councillor Choudhry	✓ Councillor Neal
✓ Councillor Clark	✓ Councillor Norris
✓ Councillor Collins	✓ Councillor Ottewell
✓ Councillor Culley	✓ Councillor Packer
✓ Councillor Dewinton	✓ Councillor Parbutt
✓ Councillor Edwards	✓ Councillor Piper
✓ Councillor Gibson	✓ Councillor Saghir
✓ Councillor Grocock	✓ Councillor D Smith
✓ Councillor Hartshorne	✓ Councillor W 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 Webster
✓ Councillor Khan	✓ Councillor Wildgust
✓ Councillor Klein	✓ Councillor K Williams
✓ Councillor Liversidge	✓ Councillor S Williams
✓ Councillor Longford	✓ Councillor Wood

41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Arnold, Ball, Spencer and Urquhart.

42 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

43 MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR CHAPMAN

Moved by Councillor Chapman, seconded by Councillor Collins:

“That Sir Peter Mansfield, 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 Dr Stewart Adams, 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 Certificates of Admission, in suitable caskets, be presented to Sir Peter Mansfield and Dr Stewart Adams at a presentation ceremony immediately after the appointment on 8 July 2013.”

RESOLVED unanimously, that the motion be carried.

The meeting concluded at 5.50 pm