



You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of **City Council** at Council Chamber - at the Council House on Monday, 27 January 2025 at 6.00 pm to transact the following business

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 Declarations of interests**
- 3 Questions from citizens**
- 4 Petitions from Councillors on behalf of citizens**
- 5 To confirm the minutes of the last meeting of Council held on 11 November 2024** 3 - 26
- 6 To receive official communications and announcements from the Leader of the Council and/or the Chief Executive**
- 7 Questions from Councillors**
- 8 Decisions taken under Urgency Procedures** 27 - 32  
Report of the Leader of the Council
- 9 Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/26**  
Report of the Executive Member for Finance and Resources
- 10 Appointments to Committees and Joint Bodies** 33 - 38  
Report of the Lord Mayor
- 11 Committee Membership Changes**  
To note the following changes to committee membership:
  - a) Councillor Audra Wynter has been appointed as a member of the Licensing Committee
  - b) For all committees to which the Nottingham Independents and Independent Group is entitled to appoint to, all members of the Group not appointed as the committee member have been appointed as named substitutes.
  - c) Councillor Shuguftah Qudoos has been removed as a member of the Licensing Committee, Regulatory and Appeals Committee, Joint Committee on Waste and Mineral Planning, and Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee, leaving vacant seats.

**Please note that questions to Council are received after the agenda has been published. Questions will be published as a supplementary agenda by 5pm on Friday 24 January 2025.**

If you need any advice on declaring an Interest in any item on the agenda, please contact the Governance Services Team, if possible before the day of the meeting.

Citizens are advised that this meeting may be recorded, including by members of the public. Any recording or reporting on this meeting should take place in accordance with the Council's policy on recording and reporting on public meetings, which is available at [www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk). Individuals intending to record the meeting are asked to notify the Governance Services Team in advance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. G. M.', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dated 17 January 2025  
Director for Legal and Governance  
**To: All Councillors of Nottingham City Council**

# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 5

## Minutes of the meeting of the City Council

held at the Council Chamber - at the Council House

on 11 November 2024 from 2.00 pm – 4.20 pm

### Attendances:

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✓ Councillor Carole McCulloch (Lord Mayor)

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✓ Councillor Saj Ahmad	✓ Councillor Sam Lux
✓ Councillor Liaqat Ali	✓ Councillor Sulcan Mahmood
✓ Councillor Leslie Ayoola	✓ Councillor Farzanna Mahmood
✓ Councillor Cheryl Barnard	✓ Councillor AJ Matsiko
✓ Councillor Steve Battlemuch	✓ Councillor David Mellen
✓ Councillor Graham Chapman	✓ Councillor Sajid Mohammed
✓ Councillor Kevin Clarke	✓ Councillor Fozia Mubashar
✓ Councillor Audrey Dinnall	✓ Councillor Salma Mumtaz
✓ Councillor Michael Edwards	✓ Councillor Sana Nasir
✓ Councillor Nadia Farhat	✓ Councillor Devontay Okure
✓ Councillor Faith Gakanje-Ajala	✓ Councillor Nayab Patel
✓ Councillor Samuel Gardiner	✓ Councillor Georgia Power
✓ Councillor Sam Harris	✓ Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos
✓ Councillor Jay Hayes	✓ Councillor Ethan Radford
✓ Councillor Patience Uloma Ifediora	✓ Councillor Nick Raine
✓ Councillor Imran Jalil	✓ Councillor Eunice Regan
✓ Councillor Corall Jenkins	✓ Councillor Sarita-Marie Rehman-Wall
✓ Councillor Maria Joannou	✓ Councillor Samina Riaz
✓ Councillor Kirsty Jones	✓ Councillor Andrew Rule
✓ Councillor Kirsty L Jones	✓ Councillor Naim Salim
✓ Councillor Helen Kalsi	✓ Councillor Michael Savage
✓ Councillor Angela Kandola	✓ Councillor Matt Shannon
✓ Councillor Anwar Khan	✓ Councillor Hayley Spain
✓ Councillor Zafran Nawaz Khan	✓ Councillor Maria Watson
✓ Councillor Gul Nawaz Khan	✓ Councillor Adele Williams
✓ Councillor Neghat Khan	✓ Councillor Linda Woodings
✓ Councillor Pavlos Kotsonis	✓ Councillor Audra Wynter

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✓ Indicates present at meeting

### 47 Apologies for absence

Councillor Helen Kalsi – work commitments

Councillor Anwar Khan - leave

Councillor AJ Matsiko – work commitments

Councillor Georgia Power - unwell

Councillor Sarita-Marie Rehman-Wall - unwell

## **48 Declarations of interests**

None

## **49 Questions from citizens**

### **Street safety**

A citizen asked the following question of the Executive Member for Communities, Waste and Equalities:

How do you intend to contribute to keeping people safe when on the streets in the next year with the violence we have seen in Nottinghamshire in recent times?

Councillor Corall Jenkins replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord-Mayor. In response to the citizen's question, I can say we work with the police and other partners like probation to develop a public health led approach to reduce violence in the city with the involvement of the Violence Reduction Team. Because of this partnership, effectively sponsors are commissioned, such as the Streets Youth Team, or Breaking Barriers Building Bridges, which have been shown to reduce violence, and they have supported younger people into purposeful activity. Nottingham, as a purple flag city, recognises the safety in the night-time economy. We have an extensive CCTV network across the city that is regularly monitored, and it is linked to the police control room, thereby reducing response time. The Nottingham Community Partnership Team meets regularly. The body not only includes the police, the Crime Commissioner, and the Nottingham City Council Safety Team, but it also includes other partners like Notts Healthcare Mental Health Team. There is a good range of providers coming together to share data and coordinate approaches where needed. Councillors may have noticed in their wards that the Police Officers have been more visible and Community Protection Officers are more visible. Police and Community Protection meet regularly with community groups to provide reassurance, and in addition the North, South, and Central Police Neighbourhood Inspectors share monthly crime rates with communities and the Police and Crime Commissioner. This information is also shared by the police on their social media, thereby keeping the public up to date. The Police Commissioner has targets and aims to tackle anti-social behaviour in all its forms, making it its number one priority. I sit on the Partnership Board, and I can confirm that there is a lot of discussion, planning, preparation, and evaluating that goes on behind the scenes to ensure that Nottingham remains a safe place to live. Thank you.

### **Library consultation**

A citizen asked the following question of the Executive Member for Carbon Reduction, Leisure and Culture:

At the final library consultation event, held at the Council House on Thursday 15 August, it was indicated that the decision on the library review would come later in 2024. Campaigners were heartened at a recent protest outside Basford Library on Saturday 19 October, when Basford Councillor Linda Woodings, who is also Executive Member for Finance and Resources, said that library closures "were not a done deal." Could the Executive Member report on the next stage of the process, and also when the final decision will be made?

Councillor Sam Lux replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord-Mayor, and I'd like to thank the citizen for this question regarding the next steps in the decision-making process for the proposed library service which were consulted on from the 28<sup>th</sup> May to the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024. First, I want to extend my thanks to everyone who participated in the 12-week consultation. We received a record 5,378 responses, along with a large volume of comments and suggestions. As part of the process, several community and charitable organisations had expressed interest in partnering with Nottingham City Council to explore options for library delivery or alternative uses for library buildings. All this feedback has been invaluable and will let us better understand the concerns and needs of our community as we explore alternative options for achieving the necessary savings. I, alongside officers, are working diligently to review the consultation findings and consider potential collaborative approaches with our interested partners. Recognising the importance of libraries and the impact that closures could have on specific communities, we want to ensure that every possible alternative is thoroughly explored before presenting final recommendations to the council. The final report is likely to be presented in the early new year, and in the meantime we are committed to reviewing all findings from the consultation, which may be subject to an additional scrutiny report in January of 2025 to ensure the robustness of our process. We are also collaborating with charitable partners to assess the realistic options and support they can provide while evaluating community needs in light of community sentiment across the council. This work will culminate in a final report and council decision in early 2025 with full implementation of any changes by the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2025. We are fully aware these decisions will shape the library provision across the city for the next decade, and ultimately our goal is to have secure libraries that offer modern, welcoming, and safe spaces, act as a gateway to support services, enhance digital inclusion and continue to provide essential resources to areas of high economic need. In short, we want to ensure that libraries remain viable and vibrant hubs at the heart of our communities. Thank you.

### **Budget consultation**

A citizen as the following question of the Executive Member for Finance and Resources:

Given the commitment to the citizen voice being heard in the process of decision making, can the Executive Member assure us with dates, as to when the budget will go out for citizens to give their views as part of the public consultation that is required?

Councillor Lida Woodings replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord-Mayor, and thank you to this citizen for their question. The draft proposals for the 2025-28 Medium Term Financial Plan and the 2025-26 budget are currently being prepared for approval through the Executive Board decision making process. The council will consult on those proposals, requiring public consultation, and further proposals will be made available closer to the publication of the budget proposals in accordance with the Executive Board timetable. We anticipate the public consultation will commence in December and conclude in late January. As usual, there will be an online consultation, but we will also be consulting with local partner organisations and the voluntary sector, and there will be meetings where citizens can attend in person and hear more details about the proposals and give us their views directly. We will know more about our provisional local government settlement in mid December and the final settlement is always confirmed in February. Thank you.

## **Cultural infrastructure**

A citizen asked the following question of the Executive Member for Carbon Reduction, Leisure and Culture:

Given that the City of Nottingham is already ranked amongst the materially most deprived areas in England, what does the Executive Member believe the consequences of cutting - to the point of near-elimination - the cultural infrastructure and social fabric of the City will be? Clearly, we do not all have the private means to compensate for the loss of youth centres, community centres, libraries, Arts etc etc.

Councillor Sam Lux replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord-Mayor, and I'd like to thank the citizen for this question regarding reductions to funding for cultural services. It is important to recognise that yes, funding provided by the city council towards the support for many cultural activities has reduced over the last number of years. This originated in reduced government funding settlements that the council has had to manage alongside increased cost pressures from adults' and children's social care needs, cost of living price increases on the authority's utilities, and rising cost pressures associated with more homelessness. These pressures are outlined in the Medium Term Financial Plan published on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2024. Nottingham City, like many other local authorities, has a prescribed number of statutory duties it must fulfil, and while the council recognises the importance of building positive cultural and social infrastructure, these are not recognised by central government or directly funded, so therefore have to be viewed as discretionary services. As financial pressure on the council has mounted, reductions in spending in the authority's discretionary services has regrettably had to follow. This means we can ensure we can comply with the statutory responsibilities. While this is difficult and we are all concerned about the long-term impact spending reductions may have on the city, we have tried to balance our reductions wherever possible to avoid getting to the point of elimination of these vital networks in areas of cultural and social worth. Despite these difficult challenges we have tried to protect and do still need to celebrate what we have been able to support. It is important to know that we are working really hard towards securing self-sustaining models for these areas in the long term. So these areas include our new central library, which is just about to come up to its first anniversary, thriving theatre and music provision across the city including work taking place at the Theatre Royal Concert Hall and the Nottingham Motorpoint Arena, reopening Nottingham Castle, and as part of the museums and gallery service supported by the Arts Council, continued support to community cultural events including Saint Patrick's Day, Light Night, Nottingham Pride, and Nottingham Carnival, and the Nottingham Arts Library Service supporting access to music and drama scores to enable community choirs, orchestras and drama groups to thrive. With regards to community centres, we are still in an ongoing consultation around future support of provision. We remain hopeful that the agreement with community associations can be reached to ensure that we are able to maintain a strong core network of community assets going forwards. Similarly, work has also taken place in regard to future library provision, it's just subject to the answer to the previous question today. Thank you.

## **50 Petitions from Councillors on behalf of citizens**

None

## **51 To confirm the minutes of the last meeting of Council held on 9**

## **September 2024**

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Council held on 9 September 2024 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

### **52 To confirm the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on 30 September 2024**

The minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on 30 September 2024 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

### **53 To receive official communications and announcements from the Leader of the Council and/or the Chief Executive**

The Chief Executive made the following announcements:

Yesterday, on Remembrance Sunday, a service of remembrance and thanksgiving was held at the War Memorial on Victoria Embankment. I joined the Lord Mayor, Leader of the Council and other councillors, civic representatives, representatives of faith communities and military personnel to remember those who have fallen, those serving in our armed forces today and those who will serve in the future. This morning, on Armistice Day, the Leader of the Council and I joined the Lord Mayor for a service of commemoration and two minute silence led by the bishop of Sherwood on the steps of the Council House.

It is with sadness that I report the death of former councillor and Honorary Alderman Hylton James on 12 October. Hylton was elected to serve the Aspley ward in 1991, where he served for a total of 16 years until 2011. During that time, he served on many different committees, including as a Chair of Licensing Panels, and he was also an Executive Assistant for Adult Services. In December 2011 he was appointed as an Honorary Alderman in recognition of his eminent service.

A minute's silence was held.

### **54 Questions from Councillors - to the City Council's lead Councillor on the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority**

#### **Fire and Rescue Service inspection report**

Councillor Nick Raine asked the following question of the Council's Lead Councillor on the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority:  
Following the recent report from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services, what steps will Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Service take to build on this success and share best practices nationally?

Councillor Audra Wynter replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord-Mayor, and thank you Councillor Raine for your question. In this service's latest report, published on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service has made significant strides in its improvement journey, achieving a rating of good in 10 out of the 11 areas of judgement. This represents a remarkable decline from the 24 areas that required improvement in 2019. Despite

facing some of the most severe funding cuts in the sector since 2010, the service has shown progress across every area of assessment, establishing it as one of the best performing fire and rescue services in England. While this positive outcome highlights exceptional work and management and the dedication of our personnel, both the authority and the service are committed to continued improvement. We employ our proven approach to address the many areas that need enhancement, specifically relating to the assurance of our risk-based inspection program for assessing non-domestic premises. The combined fire authority will maintain rigorous oversight in the areas we are pursuing our ambition to plan to achieve that statutory status by 2032. The exploration is central to our new community risk management plan which is currently in consultation and will guide our services to choose a direction from 2025 to 2028. I strongly encourage all members in this chamber to participate in this consultation to ensure that their communities are informed about both the proposals and the challenging context we are operating in. The service maintains strong connections with the national Fire Chiefs Council, and this information supports the team's vast improvements across the sector. We are actively sharing successful practices through the National Positive Practice Portal, while also learning from others. Our dedicated service improvement teams support the teams and address the officers' efficiency targets. However, it is important to note after 14 years of austerity there is little efficiency left behind other than to think about impacts on local services. Despite facing real-time reductions and challenges relating to funding and sustainability, the service is committed to continuous improvement. Lord-Mayor, core spending power reduced by 19.4% in real terms since 2010. The achievements recognised over the past 5 years should demonstrate the ambitions and drive of our teams. However, this ongoing improvement depends on appropriate, sustainable funding to meet our community's needs. Currently the service is facing an unprecedented projected deficit of £1.9 million for the 2025-26 financial year which will grow to a nearly £4.5 million in 2027-28. Councillor Khan talked about the Labour party who obviously did not come into power. I believe in what you said, and clearly it's good that we've got additional money for adults, children, and housing, but what I also need to do is have additional money for the Fire and Rescue Service for Nottingham people. We all take pride in our fire service's performance and the assurances provided by the inspectors that our community receives good levels of service. The current financial report has made the case that we may want to consider cuts to our services in the coming years. I hope that all members in this chamber will join me and the fire officers and representatives to call on the government to ensure that the fire service receives the necessary funding. This report is crucial, not only to maintain our current performance levels, but also to continue our improvement journey and meet the needs of our diverse community in Nottingham. Thank you, Lord-Mayor.

**55 Questions from Councillors - to a member of Executive Board, the Chair of a Committee and the Chair of any other City Council body**

**Government Budget implications**

Councillor Hayley Spain asked the following question of the Leader of the Council: Could the Leader please update Council on what the Government budget of 30 October means for Nottingham in terms of transport, jobs, healthcare and the services we provide, and would she join me in welcoming the news that Clifton will be retaining its Clifton Town Fund?



Councillor Neghat Khan replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord-Mayor. Thank you, Councillor Spain, for your question. At last, we have a Labour government budget that can begin to turn the page on 14 years of Tory austerity. A responsible budget that acknowledges the hard path ahead of us to get this country back on track as the Tories have left Britain broke and broken. We have the worst living standards on record, our NHS and public services are on their knees, and we have an enormous black hole in the nation's finances. Let's not forget Liz Truss, whose 49-day stay as Prime Minister is the shortest on record. Her disastrous mini-budget caused significant upheaval, deepening the cost-of-living crisis, and throwing the country into chaos. The latest Labour budget is a million miles away from that disaster. Labour's budget is fixing the foundations which will allow for future currency stability. Nottingham, like many cities, has been hit hard by the government's cuts to grants. We've had to deal with the increasing demand for social care services, especially for vulnerable children and adults, while seeing our funding slashed year after year. This budget under Chancellor Rachel Reeves begins to acknowledge the challenges we face. In a number of cases the exact impact on Nottingham will become clear over time, but change has begun. I am pleased that the Chancellor has announced a range of measures for local government that will help us to continue supporting our communities and residents. I welcome the announcement of £1.3 billion increased funding for grants to support our essential services, £600 million additional funding to support adult social care, £500 million for the affordable homes programme to build up to 5,000 additional affordable homes, £233 million additional funding to tackle homelessness, an increase on the national living wage by 6.7% to £12.21 per hour, additional funding of £650 million to support local transport projects, continuation of the household support fund, a £22.6 billion increase in the day-to-day health budget, and a £3.1 billion increase in the capital budget. This will hopefully improve healthcare outcomes across the city. The list goes on, but with time constraints I have just picked a few of the proposals. The government's budget contains wide-ranging proposals that provide more support to low-income working people. As Nottingham is a city with a higher number of low-income working people this is good news for our city and its residents. The increase in national living wage will be a boost for low-income workers. Increased wages will also mean more spending in the city. There is £100 million to support local authorities to install and upgrade cycling and walking routes. This will help us in our goal to be carbon-neutral by 2028. By improving the way people get around the city, it will build on the good work we are already doing in this area. I must also pay tribute to Nottingham South MP Lillian Greenwood, who has secured half a billion pounds to fix roads and repair potholes. Funding for potholes will not only provide a tangible benefit and improve roads across the city but will also be a visible programme of works that will improve the city and reassure residents that the council and government are improving their lives. These investments show that under Labour's leadership, we are committed to supporting communities and making sure money is starting to get back to the people and places it is needed most while also rebuilding the trust that has been lost under the Tories. Finally, like you, Councillor Spain, I am happy that Clifton has retained its £20 million Clifton Town fund. Lord-Mayor, the country, like Nottingham, still has a long way to go. We have all suffered under the Tories, but this feels like change has begun and we are finally moving in the right direction on the road to recovery.

## **Transformation Programme**

Councillor Samina Riaz asked the following question of the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education:

Could the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education update Council on the success of the Council's Children's Transformation Programme in reducing the number of children in the care of the Local Authority; but would she further explain why, despite having less children in our care, the costs of caring for these children have increased?

Councillor Cheryl Barnard replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord-Mayor. Thank you, Councillor Riaz, for your question. Our transformation plan for Children's Integrated Services has helped us to develop new ways of working for families that results in less children entering the statutory care system. We have provided social workers and managers with more tools to use when they support families. The impact of that means that we have fewer children in all areas of our service, including those children on the child protection plans and children who have become looked after by us in children's homes or foster care. We had 732 children in care in July 2022, the number having risen consistently in 3 or 4 years. It is reasonable to assume that this growth would have continued, and we could be looking at a figure nearing 750 children in care now. Our transformation work started in the autumn of 2022, and focused on working better to respond to need, supporting children to remain with their own families, supporting children to safely leave care, and increasing our own in-house fostering capacity. The work also involved supporting the social workers to approach their work with families differently, focusing more on stress, and ensuring that interventions to support positive change were delivered in a more timely way. This meant that families were getting meaningful help more quickly, so that problems didn't get any worse. Within our transformation work is our service improvement work, meaning that best practice was underpinning our activity. We also ensured that all other family options were considered prior to taking children into care, and that children did not stay in care for longer than necessary. This is an enormous achievement, given the national context where numbers have continued to rise. CIPFA recently commented that children's residential care is a major factor in driving cost pressures and accounts for over a third of spending on children in care. Supply constraints and higher demand are pushing up costs. The situation is so dire that the Department for Education has categorised the risk of market failure in children's care placements as critical to very likely in 2023-24. In Nottingham City there were 641 cared-for children at the end of September 2024 – almost 100 less than last year. But despite that, our costs have continued to rise above inflation. Costs charged to the council vary despite best efforts to negotiate fair charges. So, for example, the cost for a very similar care for a child varies between two different providers from £8,800 a week to £13,000 a week. A residential education placement for a child with special educational needs is on average £10,000 a week, and secure accommodation – often directed by the court – particularly for young people in the criminal justice system, is in the region of £20,000 per week. As a council we pride ourselves on welcoming children through the national transfer scheme, despite the pressure that creates. We have a shortage of the right kind of care for those unconfirmed asylum-seeking children, so often end up paying far more for them than the government funds us for. There are now 27 of these young people who are now over 18 years old and for those with no recourse to public funds the cost falls to the council to provide essential support. This is a heavy burden, and failure from the previous government to deal with asylum applications

efficiently and effectively has contributed to our costs. We know that's we've got a crisis in care costs to address, which is why we're working so hard to recruit more foster carers through our shared fostering hub with Nottinghamshire, Derby, and Derbyshire, Foster for East Midlands. It's too early to see the level of impact we'd like from that, but already innovations like our Mockingbird foster care constellation are showing that existing carers can do more for our children with the right level of support and care. The journey of improvement in Children's Integrated Services continues, and whilst we can see evidence of better outcome for children, we can't see that benefit in our budget, which disappoints myself and the team enormously. Despite commissioning the independent reviewer of children's social care, lead by Josh McAllister, which was published in May 2022, the Conservative government failed to act on any of the recommendations in that report, choosing only to ask for expressions of interest in Kinship Care pilots. I am confident that, given time, our Labour government will take stronger measures to address the blatant profiteering at play across the market.

### **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**

Councillor Nayab Patel asked the following question of the Executive Member for Communities, Waste and Equalities:

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is observed on 25 November 2024. Could the Executive Member for Communities, Waste and Equalities outline how the Council plans to raise awareness about this day and what actions the Council is taking to protect women and girls from violence in Nottingham?

Councillor Corall Jenkins replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord-Mayor, and thank you, Councillor Patel, for asking this important question. I'm pleased to be able to outline that we will be doing this year to support our key providers on domestic abuse in the city. So, in preparation, Nottingham City Council will light up the Council House and Wollaton Park orange. The council leadership, corporate directors, senior managers, and the executive team will wear something orange. We will ask the same of all councillors on the day as well. There will be a photoshoot at Loxley House of the senior team, and the leader of the opposition will be invited. We will all wear something orange to mark this day. In addition, all councillors should have received Juno's Turn it Orange flyer and an information pack via email, requesting the same, and to raise awareness on their social media platforms. In the information sheet that we've got it tells you all about why it's orange, it gives the history, the hope, ways to get involved and things to remember. And, like I say, this is all being sent to everybody via email. Nottingham City Council will share Turn It Orange on the social media platforms as well, and its internal communications with staff, as well as with community contacts, to also raise awareness. We have in the past aligned ourselves to the White Ribbon campaign, to encourage men never to commit, excuse, or remain silent about violence to women and girls. This year, the women's network is encouraging everyone to get involved. Nottingham has a long history dating back to the '70s in support of support against violence. In the '90s, we were one of the first councils to employ a domestic violence worker, and in 2000 Juno opened the first 24-hour free phonenumber. We have grown. The coordinated community response set out nationally involves community safety teams, housing, homelessness, and social care teams working together to hold perpetrators to account so that adult and children survivors can be free from fear. And what we have done in Nottingham ensures that a strategic approach involving Adults and Children's Services, the Health and Wellbeing Board, and other relevant

departments is that when they come together we can minimise fear and have that coordinated response. Juno works with other departments across the city. This year in the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, we have our own Labour councillor, councillor Angela Kandola, and she is Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner with the lead on violence against women and girls. Just like we are, Nottinghamshire Police, and the fire service, are looking to turn out all in orange to raise awareness on the 25<sup>th</sup> November. I look forward to working with the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner. Finally, I'd like to say that John Lewis has also played a pivotal role in supporting the Juno women's aid and I would like that to be acknowledged here. I have been down there to see it myself and they have done an excellent piece of work in making sure that people can be as comfortable as they can when they go there in the circumstances they arrive. So, please acknowledge and share the email I've sent and if you could also look on the Juno women's webpage. There will be more information and more activities you can do to promote this very important day. Thank you.

### **Council House sales receipts**

Councillor Michael Savage of the Executive Member for Housing and Planning:  
Could the Executive Member for Housing and Planning confirm what the impact of the Government proposals to allow councils to keep 100% of Council House Sales Receipts would be for Nottingham City Council?

Councillor Jay Hayes replied as follows:

Thank you, Councillor Savage, for your question. The new government announced plans to build one and a half million new council homes, new houses. We are proud of it, and it is an ambitious target, and it's one I look forward to working with the government on. To meet this target the government has had to make a number of changes, one to planning, and others to right-to-buy, that's benefitted councils all up and down the country, but this relates to the fact that the previous government under the Conservatives only allowed councils to keep 50% of profits from our sales, with the other 50 actually having to be borrowed or used from HRA accounts in order for us to replace houses lost to right-to-buy. This council has sadly lost 50% of our housing stock to right-to-buy, which has contributed to people living in private rented accommodation where some of our right-to-buy properties have been put on the private rented market for £1000 per month, and as I said before that is ridiculous and people in Nottingham cannot afford that amount of money for rent every month. So, we welcome these changes, we can now keep 100% of the right-to-buy receipt and we can combine that with section 106 money, giving us more power in terms of building or buying back houses. This government has lifted the cap on our decisions so we can get this, more of the council houses back into the housing stock. In September, I wrote a joint letter alongside the Chief Executive and we wanted £10½ million back. We had to give that money back to the government because we couldn't spend it in time, and I'm pleased to say that this government has listened to us, and in late September we have got back our £10½ million of right-to-buy receipts. That money, and the changes, will bolster our ability for us to build more council houses and build back. In the next couple of months officers are working hard on putting these plans into action and will be making a series of decisions which I will be sharing with you all. I am looking forward to seeing new council houses being built across the city, and Nottingham people living in them with secure, long-term tenancies. It's taken this Labour government four months - just four months - to acknowledge the crisis,

and has put plans in action to meet, and to end this crisis, something the Conservatives failed to do for the last 14 years.

### **Carers Allowance**

Councillor Gul Khan asked the following question of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health:

Does the Executive Member for Adults Social Care and Health agree with me that the Government's announcement of increasing the weekly earnings limit for Carers Allowance is vital in supporting carers across Nottingham?

Councillor Pavlos Kotsonis replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord-Mayor, and thanks, Councillor Khan, for your question. I wholeheartedly agree that the increase of the weekly earnings limited for the carers allowance announced by this Labour government is great news for our carers. Under the Tories, carers have laboured under a system that spoke the language of support yet imposed a reality of neglect. The same Tory government that often praised carers as heroes has systematically undervalued, exploited, and disregarded their contributions. Carers UK and WPI Economics have published a new report which explains the scale at which carers experience greater levels of poverty and economic hardship. It was found that 1.2 million unpaid carers live in poverty, and that would count for one third of unpaid carers in the UK. Those findings highlight what more than 10 years of austerity can do under the Tory government. How Tory policies have harmed our carers. Our carers who provide support to family members and friends. Our carers who keep our elderly citizens safely at home and away from care homes and hospitals. Our carers who sacrifice their own work opportunities, their personal development, and personal wellbeing, for the wellbeing of others. This Labour government, in this budget, has provided the first step to a future where there will be long-awaited justice for our carers. From April 2025 our carers will no longer need to choose between giving up their job or receiving their carers allowance. Currently based on a 52-week year, carers can earn up to £7,800 per year and be eligible to claim carers allowance. The new rate, from the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 will make carers who earn up to an increased £10,200 approximately per year now be eligible to claim carers allowance. This also coincides with national living wage increases, meaning that from April '25 carers on the new national living wage who work up to 16 hours per week can receive carers allowance. Under this Labour government carers will now be able to work more, earn more, and still build their income with carers allowance. That's how Labour is opposed to the cost-of-living crisis. What that does, is that it brings a massive economic security for many people who were left to leave precarious lives under consecutive Conservative governments. Now 60,000 more carers who work part-time will be eligible to receive the carers allowance without having to reduce their hours. 60,000 more people will be able to increase their disposable income and lead better and more fulfilling lives. There is also clear benefit with regards to personal productivity and worker's participation, allowing carers to earn more without losing benefits encourages more people to stay or re-enter the workforce, even if it is just part-time. This helps maintain professional skills, builds connections, and contributes to the world as a whole. Overall, this legislation provides practical support to carers by easing financial strain, recognising the invaluable role carers play in our society and by giving carers more flexibility to balance work and caregiving. Thank you.

### **New Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge**

Councillor Andrew Rule asked the following question of the Executive Member for Strategic Regeneration, Transport and Communications:

Can the Executive Member update the Chamber on how the anticipated cuts to the Department for Transport's budget will affect the sign off of funding from the Transforming Cities Fund provisionally allocated to the new pedestrian/cyclist bridge connecting Colwick with Lady Bay?

Councillor Neghat Khan replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord-Mayor. Thank you Councillor Rule for your question. We have received no indication from the Department for Transport that our existing Transforming Cities allocations are to be reduced and that we will not receive our full funding allocation as programmed. Therefore, no impact on the delivery of the new waterside pedestrian and cycle bridge over the river Trent is expected as a result of any announcements made in the Autumn Budget. Like I said earlier in my answer, the budget included some positive announcements on local transport funding for the 2025-26 financial year that should be beneficial to the city including additional funding for highway maintenance, additional local transport funding for the mayoral combined authority in areas including ours, additional funding to support local bus services, additional funding for cycling and walking infrastructure, and additional funding to support the rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

### **No Fault Evictions ban**

Councillor Kevin Clarke asked the following question of the Executive Member for Housing and Planning:

Will the Executive Member join us in welcoming the Government's intention to continue the last Conservative Government's work in banning no fault evictions?

Councillor Jay Hayes replied as follows:

Thank you, no I will not be supporting the government that didn't deliver for 14 years. If the Conservative government wanted to end no-fault evictions, they had 14 years to do so as they had a majority in that time, so why have they not done it? The previous government saw homelessness increase by 75%. Private renting becoming unaffordable for so many in our city and up and down the country. The housing targets nationally imposed, then scrapped, then imposed, then scrapped again, because they failed to deliver any new housing. And the lack of support in funding to councils who build new social housing. In Nottingham we have over 10,000 people on our waiting list. In 2023-24 we've seen 225 cases were due to no-fault eviction in the last year. Many of these had to go into temporary accommodation, which has put a constant burden onto the council. The Conservatives had chance and chance and chance again to end no-fault evictions. They failed to do so, passing the burden, the blame, and the costs on to local authorities. As I said earlier, it's taken this Labour government four months – just four months – to come up with ideas to address these problems by allowing councils to keep more of their funding and to expand the law so we can build more houses. This government is committed to ending no-fault evictions and shoring up the rights of private tenants. So no, I do not support the Conservatives' work on no-fault evictions because they didn't do anything. I do support the Labour party's work because they were the ones who actually put it into law. So, the Conservatives failed, it's always up to Labour to pick up the pieces, take action, and make things happen. So, Councillor Clarke, I hope you will join me in welcoming Labour's approach to ending no-fault evictions.

### **Tram strikes**

Councillor Kirsty M Jones asked the following question of the Leader of the Council: Will the Leader of the Council accept the frustration of residents of Clifton, Wilford and Silverdale who during the recent strike activity on the trams suffered a complete cancellation of service preventing commuters from getting to work and children getting to school?

Councillor Neghat Khan replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord-Mayor. Thank you, Councillor Jones, for your question. Let's be clear: no-one wants to see disruption on any of our transport networks. Nottingham's tram is a fantastic part of our integrated transport system that moves millions of people around our city each year, so I sympathise with the people whose journeys were affected by the one-day strike. However, the council supports unions and workers' right to take industrial action. The reasons behind the one-day strike that took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> September were for the tram operator and the unions to resolve. We were disappointed that an agreement was not reached in time to avoid the one-day strike, but in the interests of ensuring the continued successful operation of Nottingham's tram system for residents, we urged the parties to get together and work towards a resolution. I am pleased that the sides reached an agreement, and the threat of further disruption was avoided. Of course it was frustrating for customers who regularly use the system, but the excellence of Nottingham's public transport network meant that in most cases residents had other options to make their journey, including by using Nottingham City Transport buses, and we just heard earlier how fantastic they are.

### **National Insurance increases**

Councillor Andrew Rule asked the following question of the Executive Member for Skills, Growth and Economic Development:

Can the Executive Member comment on how increases in National Insurance made in the Labour Government's recent budget will affect the ability of businesses in Nottingham to take on new staff thus helping to reduce unemployment in the City?

Councillor Ethan Radford replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord-Mayor, and thank you, Councillor Rule, for your question. So, the treasury's forecasted an increase in employers' national insurance contributions will raise approximately £25 billion in the financial year 2025-26. In the Chancellor's budget there was a clear intent to stimulate economic growth, to rebuild the economy and build better standards of living. To do this requires investment though. The revenue generated from this increase will contribute towards addressing the UK's financial position and support investment in public services. It is quite clear that for businesses to succeed and thrive they need effective infrastructure, a skilled and healthy workforce, and consumers with more pounds in their pockets. The first Labour budget for 14 years sets out a plan to achieve these conditions. There are a range of views expressed about how the national insurance increase will impact business's hiring intentions. The British Chamber of Commerce recognises that the budget outlines a longer-term framework to provide stability for the economy, rather than a short-term boom for a long-term bust, and the Federation of Small Businesses recognise that it is unavoidable and welcome the increase in the employment allowance supporting small businesses in the UK. A local economist, Professor Will Rossiter from Nottingham Trent University, doesn't consider that the impact would be

hugely material in attempts to reduce unemployment, due to the demand for labour being quite strong. In terms of employment in Nottingham, he indicates that the key issue is addressing the almost 25,000 city residents who are economically inactive due to long-term sickness. High levels of investment in public health, such as we have seen in the Chancellor's budget, would go a long way to address that. In the meantime, this council will continue to work with our business partners and local employers as part of our economic plan for growth we developed earlier this year to provide the right conditions for Nottingham's businesses to thrive and deliver the jobs and wages our residents need.

### **Restriction on decorating graves**

Councillor Kevin Clarke asked the following question of the Executive Member for Carbon Reduction, Leisure and Culture:

Could the Executive Member please explain the rationale behind the decision to restrict families from decorating the graves of their loved ones given the huge distress and hurt it has caused them?

Councillor Sam Lux replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord-Mayor, and I'd like to thank Councillor Clarke for this question. The Cemetery and Crematorium Service manages 68 hectares of land for burial space across the city, which contains thousands of grave plots, both new and old. In order to maintain these areas in a safe and correct way, the service has clearly set out how burial plots will be managed. This way of working was established for a number of years, and information is provided to families when purchasing a lease of a burial plot. It is appreciated that the subject is highly sensitive and personal to all the families concerned. Each burial plot will have a defined area that is leased by the family, and any expansion beyond this has an impact on other families as it starts to encroach on their site, and/or issues with burials in the grounds. To ensure sites are maintained to an accepted standard, regular access to the surrounding areas of the grave is required to enable activities such as grass cutting to take place. The placement of items made from glass, metal, plastics, or loose stones can cause severe issues with our teams maintaining the grounds and employee safety when trying to cut the grass. Aside from the placement of personal items, the service also have rules related to the erection of memorials. Each memorial requires a permit to be issued by our service. We have an approved list of stonemasons for families to use with clear guidance on stone, type, and inscriptions for each memorial in relation to the burial plot in question. The service has been applying the rules on a gradual basis across our cemeteries given the scale of the task at hand. In dealing with hundreds of burial plots, we have only encountered a few ongoing issues with families. Most families have been positive, and we have worked with our teams to address these issues. In response to the specific question raised, the more traditional graves have a curb surrounding them within these areas. With the exemption of glass items or items that have spikes that might cause injury, families can decorate as they wish. The lawn graves usually have a memorial plinth where items can be placed, ensuring the grass area is clear so that regular maintenance and cutting can take place. When items are placed outside of the designated areas, the team works sensitively to try to help families, and also ensure that notice is provided for any actions they intend to take such as removal of items, and continue to publicise information directly to families as well as others. Thank you.



### **Departure of Chief Finance Officer/ Section 151 Officer**

Councillor Maria Watson asked the following question of the Executive Member for Finance and Resources:

Could the Executive Member confirm what impact the departure of the Chief Finance Officer/ Section 151 Officer will have on the Council's ability to balance the in year gap in this year's budget?

Councillor Linda Woodings replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord-Mayor, and thank you, Councillor Watson, for your question. As you will note at point 13 on our agenda today, we are pleased to recommend to Full Council the appointment of a new Corporate Director for Finance and Resources, Stuart Fair, who has joined us on an interim basis from the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, and I look forward to working with him. Subject to the approval of his appointment at Full Council today there should be no impact upon the council's existing ability to manage its in-year position. I can also confirm that our finance team stand ready to assist the Nottingham Independents with preparing an alternative budget proposal, should they finally be bothered to do so after two years of failing to submit an opposition budget we are very keen to know what ideas and proposals you might want to share with us and the public, and our finance team stand ready to assist you with putting those proposals together.

### **56 Decisions taken under Urgency Procedures**

Councillor Neghat Khan, Leader of the Council, proposed the report informing Council that, since the last report to Council in July 2024, there had been no decisions taken under the urgency provisions within the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and no decisions taken under the special urgency provisions within the Access to Information Procedure Rules. Councillor Ethan Radford seconded the report.

**Resolved to note that**

**(1) no decisions have been taken under urgency provisions within the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Article 11) of the Constitution since the last report to Council;**

**(2) no decisions have been taken under the special urgency provisions within the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Article 13) of the Constitution since the last report to Council.**

### **57 Audit Committee Annual Report 2023/24**

Councillor Adele Williams, Chair of the Audit Committee, presented the Audit Committee Annual Report for 2023/24, which summarises the work undertaken by the Audit Committee over the municipal year 2023/24, explaining how the Committee has filled its designated role within the Constitution and how this work relates to its core responsibilities. The report was seconded by Councillor Sam Gardiner.

**Resolved to**

**(1) note the work undertaken by the Audit Committee during 2023/24;**

**(2) accept the Audit Committee Annual Report 2023/24.**

#### **58 Review of Statement of Gambling Policy**

Councillor Audrey Dinnall, Chair of the Licensing Committee, presented the report seeking approval to adopt a new Statement of Gambling Policy for the City of Nottingham. The purpose of the Statement is to inform individuals making an application for a licence of the Authority's standards and values in promoting the licensing objectives within the framework of the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) and approved guidance issued by the Gambling Commission under the Act. The report also gives Council the opportunity to renew the "No Casino" resolution should it wish to do so and which will otherwise cease to have effect in January 2025.

#### **Resolved to**

**(1) having regard to the principles/matters identified in both the Introduction and Appendix 2 of the draft Policy, resolve to renew Council's previous "No Casino" resolution pursuant to S166 of the Act so, that with effect from 31 January 2025, no casino licences will be issued within the administrative area of the City of Nottingham;**

**(2) adopt the Statement of Gambling Policy;**

**(3) authorise the Director of Communities, Environment and Resident Services to comply with the relevant statutory requirements in respect of the advertisement and publication of the Statement, and should Council not agree to renew the No Casino resolution to make the appropriate amendments to the policy deleting reference to that matter before publication.**

#### **59 Designation of Chief Finance Officer/ Section 151 Officer**

Councillor Neghat Khan, Leader of the Council, presented the report asking Council to note the appointment of an Interim Corporate Director of Finance and Resources, and that the post is designated as the Council's Chief Finance Officer/ Section 151 Officer. In addition, the role will also include oversight of IT, Commercial and Procurement, Internal Audit and Risk.

#### **Resolved to**

**(1) note that Stuart Fair has been appointed as Interim Corporate Director of Finance and Resources with effect from 8 November 2024 and that, as set out in Article 5 of the Constitution, this post is designated as the Council's Chief Finance Officer/ Section 151 Officer for the purposes of Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972;**

**(2) note that as an interim arrangement the Director of Legal and Governance, Director of Customer Services and Strategic Director of HR and Equality and Diversity and Inclusion will report to the Chief Executive prior to**

**options for a permanent management structure being presented to the Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee for consideration and approval.**

## **60 Motion in the name of Councillor Sam Lux**

Councillor Sam Lux proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Hayley Spain:

As a globally recognised climate leader, Nottingham City Council is committed to embedding equitability into the city's decarbonisation journey. It must therefore support citizens to shape and benefit from local climate policy, so that Nottingham can successfully reduce emissions and in a way that improves the wellbeing of all its communities.

The Strategic Council Plan 2024-27 includes a commitment to "engage with our diverse local communities through a Nottingham Climate Assembly, working towards a more informed and resilient city".

Nottingham Green Partnership and Nottingham Climate Assembly have been working tirelessly to make this happen. Already they have organised a series of volunteer-run mini-assemblies across the city to instigate rich conversations about the climate and ecological emergency, and how we can collectively work towards carbon neutrality.

These eight mini-assemblies (Nottingham University Hospitals Trust, Emmanuel School, Green Festival, Green Hustle, Nottingham College, with Environmental groups, Nottingham City Council, Green Meadows) have illuminated new insights into what can be done by local people working together and developed a range of ideas and projects. Further mini-assemblies will take place at Farnborough School, Trades Council, Nottingham University, BACKLIT, Age Friendly Nottingham, Its in Nottingham, and Nottingham Women's Centre.

The aim is to hold the full Nottingham Climate Assembly over four weekends in 2025.

A climate assembly for the city, which will meaningfully give voice to our diverse communities, necessitates a representative sample of the population involved. Participants will be financially supported through the process to maximise inclusivity, and they need to be informed by experts in the field to help them reach their conclusions. There are therefore significant costs associated.

Fundraising is underway, with several thousand pounds raised towards the goal, but much more is needed and part of the fundraising strategy is to launch a Crowdfunder. This is taking place on 18<sup>th</sup> November at the Nottingham Green Partnership.

This council resolves to:

- Give full support to the efforts of Nottingham Green Partnership
- Thank all the people who have been involved in reaching this point in the project; the members of the Oversight Panel who have given their time and expertise and the committed group of volunteers from Nottingham Climate

Assembly, a not for profit organisation, who have organised and facilitated the mini-assemblies and spread the word about the importance of talking about the subject of climate in the city.

- Continue to support the work of Nottingham Green Partnership, working towards the NCA and give our support to the launch of the Crowdfunder and future fundraising efforts.

Approval of the motion does not commit the Council to any financial expenditure, including in relation to officer time. Any expenditure would be subject to a separate decision(s) taken in accordance with the decision making requirements set out in the Council's constitution.

**Resolved to carry the motion.**

## **61 Committee Membership Changes**

It was noted that:

- a) Councillor Liaquat Ali has been appointed to replace Councillor AJ Matsiko as a member of the Audit Committee;
- b) Councillor Sam Gardiner has been appointed to replace Councillor Maria Joannou as a member of the Audit Committee;
- c) Councillor AJ Matsiko has been appointed to replace Councillor Matt Shannon as a member of the Licensing Committee;
- d) Councillor Maria Joannou has been appointed to replace Councillor Devontay Okure as a member of the Licensing Committee;
- e) Councillor Matt Shannon has been appointed to replace Councillor Farzanna Mahmood as a member of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee;
- f) Councillor Devontay Okure has been appointed to replace Councillor Sam Gardiner as a member of the Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee;
- g) Councillor Michael Edwards has been appointed to replace Councillor Devontay Okure as a member of the Joint Committee on Waste and Mineral Planning; and
- h) Councillor Naim Salim has been removed as a member of the Planning Committee leaving a vacant seat.

## **62 Future Meeting Dates**

**Resolved to agree to**

- (1) move the date of the next Council meeting to 27 January 2025 6pm; and**
- (2) move the date of the Council meeting currently scheduled for 24 February to 3 March 2025 2pm.**

The Meeting concluded at 4.20pm

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**Responses to questions from councillors requiring a written response  
11 November 2024**

**WQ1**

**Question asked by Councillor Kevin Clarke of the Leader of the Council**

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Following the recent City Council Extraordinary Meeting can the Leader confirm that the borrowing powers granted by the constituent councils of the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) do not place the Council and indeed other constituent councils as de facto guarantors for any borrowing that EMCCA may choose to take on?

Councillor Neghat Khan replied as follows:

On 30 September 2024, the Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to consent to the final approval of the Combined Authorities (Borrowing) and East Midlands Combined County Authority (Borrowing Functions) (Amendment) Regulations 2024, following further legal advice. This has now been signed off.

The regulations will grant the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) the power of competence for economic development and regeneration, as well as the power to borrow.

This enables EMCCA to support local businesses and promote tourism through various economic development and regeneration activities, in line with the original proposal.

The regulations do not require the Council to act as a guarantor for any EMCCA borrowing. EMCCA, as a separate legal entity, must comply with the Prudential Code and is subject to a borrowing cap agreed with HM Treasury.

As constituent members of EMCCA's Board, we will ensure that any borrowing is affordable and meets Prudential Code requirements, consistent with existing borrowing regulations for other Mayoral Combined Authorities. We also have voting rights on the approval or amendment of the Combined County Authority budget, where a majority is required.

**WQ2**

**Question asked by Councillor Kirsty M Jones of the Executive Member for Housing and Planning**

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Can the Executive Member confirm the extent of what is classed as an emergency repair and provide of the number of emergency repairs reported to Housing Services by month over the last 12 months and the average wait time before they were resolved?

Councillor Jay Hayes replied as follows:

The Housing regulator defines an emergency repair as repairs that are necessary to prevent serious damage to the building, danger to health, risk to safety or risk of serious loss or damage to the occupier's property.

The list below are the types of issues that would be classed in our priority 1

- Burst internal water pipes where water can't be turned off.
- Blocked main drains or soil stack, and sewage leaks into the property.
- Complete loss of electrics.
- No central heating (only classed as an emergency from October to April).
- Electrical or gas safety check after fire, storm damage, or flood.
- Securing a property:
  - after a break-in/domestic violence
  - if an external door cannot be closed or locked
  - if it needs boarding up after a window/door has been smashed.
- Letting you in if you've lost your key (a charge will apply).
- Faults with door entry systems which stop you getting in/out.
- Dangerous structures that have collapsed or are at risk of collapse, such as:
  - ceilings, floors, staircases
  - manholes, structural walls, chimneys, or roofs (this doesn't apply to sheds).
- Gas leak or suspected carbon monoxide leak.
- Failure of communal fire alarms (or persistent sounding of detectors).
- Lifts not working.
- Hoists or stairlift not working.
- Disturbance of asbestos.
- Where a safety risk has been identified by our staff.

If a customer reports an issue within the agreed category, we will aim to visit the customers home within 24 hours of them reporting it, with the aim of making it safe, and if required will arrange a follow-up appointment with customers if further work is needed.

The table below shows the number of jobs raised as a priority 1 (emergency) over the last 12 months. Please note November 24 was up to the 8th November. We usually experience a spike from October as customers switch on heating. Out of hours is the evenings, weekends and bank holidays.

Month ▾	In Hours	Out of Hours	Grand Total
Nov-23	2364	850	3214
Dec-23	2700	1306	4006
Jan-24	3394	1212	4606
Feb-24	2877	924	3801
Mar-24	2623	1033	3656
Apr-24	2275	776	3051
May-24	2317	642	2959
Jun-24	1948	581	2529
Jul-24	2302	576	2878
Aug-24	2032	595	2627
Sep-24	2665	706	3371
Oct-24	3915	777	4692
Nov-24	708	173	881
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32120</b>	<b>10151</b>	<b>42271</b>

Our current system is generating an outcome of an average of 3.78 days to resolve. However, due to concerns over data accuracy as a result of the IT system configuration, we believe these figures to be over exaggerated.



This issue is a key priority to resolve as part of our housing improvement plan, to provide the Council with appropriate assurance.

WQ3

**Question asked by Councillor Andrew Rule requesting of the Executive Member for Strategic Regeneration, Transport and Communications**

Can the Executive Member provide the dates for when the drainage soakaway that serves the properties on Holly Avenue in Wilford was last inspected, together with the dates for when it has been emptied over the last 12 months?

Councillor Neghat Khan replied as follows:

Highway Services maintain public highways across the City. Holly Avenue is subject to routine highway safety inspections to ensure it is safe for residents and road users. Any defects or issues that meet safety criteria are completed within set timescales. This includes all highway works and on Holly Avenue we have completed improvement works to the local drainage infrastructure including gullies and soakaway works to improve operational activity and reduce risks.

At Holly Avenue there is a high water table level and under extreme weather conditions (heavy rainfall) this places the local drainage infrastructure under pressure. To support residents, Highways have included Holly Avenue on a “hot spot list” which means that this area is checked and monitored frequently.

The team have a number of priority areas that are included on the “hot spot” list and further under extreme conditions the team proactively attend all “hot spot” areas across the City in order to reduce the risk of flooding to properties.

Please find below a list detailing the inspections of the soakaway and necessary works activities

Confirmation can be provided that all readings are below actionable level with the exception of 3 January 2024, this was a flash flooding event. Remedial work would be undertaken when the soakaway is approaching full, at this point the soakaway would be emptied:

Date Visited	Road	Route	Soakaway Water Depth/Action Taken	Team
21 October 2024	Holly Avenue	HM-Soakaway	900mm	Highway Team 7
01 October 2024	Holly Avenue	HM-Soakaway	1400mm	Highway Team 7
23 September 2024	Holly Avenue	HM-Soakaway	1800mm	Highway Team 7
17 September 2024	Holly Avenue	HM-Soakaway	350mm	Highway Team 7
28 August 2024	Holly Avenue	HM-Soakaway	400mm	Highway Team 7
24 July 2024	Holly Avenue	HM-Soakaway	500mm	Highway Team 7
18 June 2024	Holly Avenue	HM-Soakaway	700mm	Highway Team 7
20 May 2024	Holly Avenue	HM-Soakaway	640mm	Highway Team 7
20 March 2024	Holly Avenue	HM-Soakaway	1000mm	Highway Team 7
20 February 2024	Holly Avenue	HM-Soakaway	1000mm	Highway Team 7
31 January 2024	Holly Avenue	HM-Soakaway	900mm	Highway Team 7
24 January 2024	Holly Avenue	HM-Soakaway	1000mm	Highway Team 7
17 January 2024	Holly Avenue	HM-Soakaway	1000mm	Highway Team 7
16 January 2024	Holly Avenue	HM-Soakaway	1000mm	Highway Team 7
03 January 2024	Holly Avenue	Cat1U 36 Hour Response	Pump out soakaway and check gullies	Gully Machine 4
27 December 2023	Holly Avenue	HM-Soakaway	1700mm	Highway Team 3
13 December 2023	Holly Avenue	HM-Soakaway	1400mm	Highway Team 7
20 November 2023	Holly Avenue	HM-Soakaway	900mm	Highway Team 7

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## City Council – 27 January 2025

### Report of the Leader of the Council

#### Corporate Director/ Director

Beth Brown, Director of Legal and Governance

#### Report Author and Contact Details

Jane Garrard, Interim Head of Governance

[jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

#### Title: Decisions taken under Urgency Procedures

#### Does the report form part of the Budget or Policy Framework?

Yes  No

#### Commissioner Consideration

Has this report been shared with the Commissioners' Office?  Yes  No

Review by Commissioners not required

#### Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication?

No

#### Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:

Green, Clean and Connected Communities

Keeping Nottingham Working

Carbon Neutral by 2028

Safer Nottingham

Child-Friendly Nottingham

Living Well in our Communities

Keeping Nottingham Moving

Improve the City Centre

Better Housing

Serving People Well

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution requires that decisions taken under urgency provisions within the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Article 11) and Access to Information Procedure Rules (Article 13) are reported to Full Council.
- 1.2 This report informs Council of decisions that have been taken under these provisions since the last report to Council in November 2024. During that period there have been two decisions taken under the urgency provisions within the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and no decisions taken under the special urgency provisions within the Access to Information Procedure Rules

### 2. Recommendations

2.1 To note that two decisions have been taken under urgency provisions within the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Article 11) of the Constitution since the last report to Council, as set out in Appendix 1.

2.2 To note that no decisions have been taken under the special urgency provisions within the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Article 13) of the Constitution since the last report to Council.

### **3. Reasons for recommendations**

3.1 The Council's Constitution requires that any decisions taken under urgency provisions within the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Article 11) and Access to Information Procedure Rules (Article 13) are reported to the next available meeting of Council.

### **4. Other options considered in making recommendations**

4.1 None. It is a Constitutional requirement that Council is informed of any urgent decisions taken under provisions within the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Article 11) and Access to Information Procedure Rules (Article 13).

### **5. Consideration of Risk**

5.1 A consideration of risk related to decisions being made takes place at the time the decisions are taken and informs the decision making process that is followed.

### **6. Best Value Considerations**

6.1 Decisions are made in accordance with procedures set out in the Council's Constitution that are designed to support the efficient and effective discharge of Executive functions. These arrangements are regularly reviewed and, where necessary, amendments made

### **7. Background (including outcomes of consultation)**

#### **7.1 Decisions taken under the Call-in and Urgency provisions of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules**

7.1.1 The call-in procedure set out in Article 11 of the Constitution does not apply where the decision taken is urgent. A decision is urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. A decision can only be taken under this urgency provision if the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee (or in the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair; or in the absence of both, the Chief Executive) agrees that the proposed decision is reasonable in all circumstances and that the reasons for urgency are valid.

7.1.2 Since the last report to Council in November 2024, there have been two decisions taken under these urgency provisions. A summary of these decisions

is set out in Appendix 1, and the decisions are available on the Council's website.

## **7.2 Decisions taken under the Special Urgency provisions of the Access to Information Procedure Rules**

7.2.1 Where it is impracticable to give at least five clear working days notice of the intention to take a Key Decision, that decision may only be made in accordance with the special urgency provisions set out in the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Article 13 of the Constitution). These special urgency provisions require agreement from the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee (or in the absence of the Chair, the Lord Mayor as Chair of Council; or in the absence of both, the Sheriff as Vice Chair of Council) that the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.

7.2.2 There have been no decisions taken under these urgency provisions since April 2023.

## **8. Commissioner comments**

8.1 Review by Commissioners not required.

## **9. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money)**

9.1 Comments from Finance colleagues in relation to decisions are published as part of those decisions.

## **10. Legal colleague comments**

10.1 Comments from Legal colleagues in relation to decisions are published as part of those decisions.

## **11. Other relevant comments**

11.1 None

## **12. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)**

12.1 Where applicable, details of the crime and disorder implications of decisions are published as part of those decisions.

## **13. Social value considerations (If Applicable)**

13.1 Where applicable, details of the social value considerations of decisions are published as part of those decisions.

## **14. Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)**

14.1 Where applicable, regard given to the NHS Constitution in decisions is published as part of those decisions.

**15. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

15.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because this is a monitoring report, reporting on decisions that have already been taken. Where required, EIAs are published alongside decisions taken.

**16. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)**

16.1 Has the data protection impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



A DPIA is not required because this is a monitoring report, reporting on decisions that have already been taken. Where required, the data protection impact of decisions is assessed and, where appropriate, details are published as part of those decisions.

**17. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)**

17.1 Has the carbon impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



A CIA is not required because this is a monitoring report, reporting on decisions that have already been taken. Where required, the carbon impact of decisions is assessed and, where appropriate, details are published as part of those decisions.

**18. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)**

18.1 None

**19. Published documents referred to in this report**

19.1 Article 11 Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution

19.2 Article 13 Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution

19.3 The committee reports and minutes, and delegated decisions referred to in this report, as published on the Nottingham City Council website.

**Councillor Neghat Khan  
Leader of the Council**

## Appendix 1 - Decisions taken under the Call-in and Urgency provisions of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

Decision reference	Date of decision	Subject	Decision taker	Consultee on urgency	Reason for urgency
Minute Ref: 64	19/11/24	Joint SEND Commissioning Strategy for 2024-2027	Executive Board	Chair of Corporate Scrutiny Committee	Immediate and pressing deadlines faced by both Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council regarding their respective SEND Local Area Re-Inspections and Inspections. Urgency was necessary to ensure the councils remain compliant with critical legal obligations and to prevent negative repercussions that would arise from a delay in the publication of the Strategy.
5218	26/11/24	Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund Wave 3	Leader of the Council	Chair of Corporate Scrutiny Committee	To end the bid to be submitted by the deadline

**Appendix 2 – Key Decisions taken under the Special Urgency provisions of the Access to Information Procedure Rules**

There were no Key Decisions taken under the Special Urgency provisions of the Access to Information Procedure Rules during the period since the last report to Council in November 2024.



# City Council – 27 January 2025

## Report of the Lord Mayor

### Corporate Director/ Director:

Beth Brown, Director of Legal and Governance

### Report Author and Contact Details:

Jane Garrard, Interim Head of Governance

[Jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

### Title: Appointments to Committees and Joint Committees

#### Does the report form part of the Budget or Policy Framework?

Yes  No

#### Commissioner Consideration –

Has this report been shared with the Commissioners' Office?  Yes  No

Any comments the Commissioners wish to provide are listed below.

#### Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication?

No

#### Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:

Green, Clean and Connected Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safer Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Living Well in our Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve the City Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Better Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serving People Well	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## 1. Summary

1.1 In May 2024 Council established a number of committees and joint bodies for the municipal year 2024/25, including approval of their membership and named substitutes. In accordance with legislative requirements, following a change to the composition of political groups represented on the Council, a recalculation of political balance and the implications of this for the allocation of seats on committees has been undertaken.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 To note the relative strength of political groups on the Council is now as follows:

Labour Group 89.09% (49)

Nottingham Independents and Independent Group 7.27% (4)

There are two councillors who are not a member of a political group.

- 2.2 To note the allocation of seats on Council committees and joint committees to political groups as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 To note that, in accordance with the allocation of seats to political groups as set out in Appendix 1, Councillor Salma Mumtaz is no longer a member of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority; and to appoint Councillor Andrew Rule as a member of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority.

### **3. Reasons for recommendations**

- 3.1 The recommendations support compliance with legislative requirements for the allocation of seats on Council committees, as set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1980. Following notification of change in membership of a political group since the Council's Annual Meeting in May 2024, a recalculation of political balance and a review of the implications of this for the allocation of seats on Council committees to which political proportionality rules apply has been carried out.

### **4. Other options considered in making recommendations**

- 4.1 None - the recommendations support compliance with legislative requirements.

### **5. Consideration of Risk**

- 5.1 The recommendations support compliance with legislative requirements.

### **6. Best Value Considerations**

- 6.1 Not applicable – the recommendations support compliance with legislative requirements.

### **7. Background (including outcomes of consultation)**

- 7.1 Council has established a number of committees to discharge some of its non-executive functions. Details of these committees and the functions delegated to each committee can be found in Article 9 Non-Executive Functions and Committees of the Constitution. Council has also delegated some functions to joint committees and details of the functions delegated to these joint committees can also be found in Article 9.
- 7.2 Council is responsible for appointing the membership of the committees that it has established. Seats on Council committees must be allocated in compliance with legislation which requires that, for most committees, the allocation of seats to political groups reflects the relative strength of those groups on the Council, as far as is reasonably practicable. The allocation of seats on some committees, for example Licensing Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board, is governed by other legislation and political balance is not required.
- 7.3 The main legislation which governs whether political balance is required in the allocation of committee seats and how it is calculated is the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. This set out four principles that must be observed:

- i) Where some or all of the members of the Council have formed into two or more political groups, then no committee can have members from just one political group.
- ii) Where a majority of members of the Council are members of one political group, that political group must have a majority of seats on each committee.
- iii) As long as there is consistency with the first two principles, the number of seats allocated to each political group on all of the Ordinary Committees taken together, must be as near as possible proportionate to their strength on the Council.
- iv) As long as there is consistency with the first three principles, the number of seats allocated to each political group on each individual committee must be proportionate to their strength on the Council.

7.4 A political group is a group of two or more councillors who have notified the Proper Officer that they wish to form a group. Where there are councillors who do not belong to a political group, Council will appoint any unallocated/ left over seats from amongst the councillors who belong to no political group.

7.5 Alternative arrangements for the allocated of seats can only be approved by a unanimous vote of Council.

7.6 Appointments to the seats allocated to political groups on each Council committee for the forthcoming municipal year are made at the Council's Annual Meeting. The Constitution then enables the Director of Legal and Governance to approve in-year changes to committee memberships, either at the request of the relevant political group or because a member ceases to be eligible for membership. Such changes are reported to the next meeting of Council.

7.7 In May 2024 Council appointed councillors to seats on Council committees for the municipal year 2024/25, based on the political balance at that time. The resignation of Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos from the Labour Group in November 2024 changed the composition of political groups and required a recalculation of political balance and a review of the implications of this for the allocation of seats on committees to which political proportionality rules apply.

7.8 Following a change to the membership of political groups, the relative strength of political groups on the Council is now as follows:

Labour Group 89.09% (49)

Nottingham Independents and Independent Group 7.27% (4)

There are two councillors who are not a member of a political group.

7.9 The allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the principles of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 for each of the committees to which this applies is set out at Appendix 1. The impact of this on the appointments made by Council in May 2024 is that the Labour Group has one less seat on the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority, and the Nottingham Independents and Independent Group gain one seat on that Authority. There are no unallocated/ leftover seats for councillors not a member of a political group to be appointed to. As nominated by the relevant political groups, Council is asked to note that Councillor Salma Mumtaz will no longer be a member of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority; and approve

Councillor Andrew Rule as a member of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority.

**8. Commissioner comments**

8.1 Commissioners have approved the report

**9. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money)**

9.1 The nature of this decision has no financial implication and is supported.

Sam Taylor  
Interim Principal Management Accountant  
3 January 2025

**10. Legal colleague comments**

10.1 The legal requirements for establishing political balance on relevant committees is as set out in the main body of the report.

Ann Barrett – Team Leader, Legal Services  
2 January 2025

**11. Other relevant comments**

11.1 None

**12. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)**

12.1 Not applicable

**13. Social value considerations (If Applicable)**

13.1 Not applicable

**14. Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)**

14.1 Not applicable

**15. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

15.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because the proposals do not relate to a new or changing policy, service or function.

**16. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)**

16.1 Has the data protection impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



A DPIA is not required because the proposals do not involve use of personal or sensitive data.

**17. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)**

17.1 Has the carbon impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



A CIA is not required because the proposals do not have any significant carbon impact.

**18. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)**

18.1 None

**19. Published documents referred to in this report**

19.1 Article 9 Non-Executive Functions and Committees of the Council's Constitution

19.2 Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 20 May 2024

19.3 Local Government and Housing Act 1989

19.4 Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990

**Councillor Carole McCulloch  
Lord Mayor**

### Allocation of Seats on Council Committees and Joint Committees to Political Groups

	Labour Group	Nottingham Independents and Independent Group
<b>Ordinary Committees</b>		
Appeals Committee	4	1
Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee	7	1
Audit Committee	8	1
Investigating and Disciplinary Committee	4	1
Planning Committee	15	1
Regulatory and Appeals Committee	13	1
Standards and Governance Committee	7	1
Trusts and Charities Committee	7	1
Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	7	1
Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee	7	1
Corporate Scrutiny Committee	7	1
Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee	7	1
Housing and City Development Scrutiny Committee	7	1
Greater Nottingham Light Rapid Transit Advisory Committee	5	0
Joint Committee on Mineral and Waste Planning	4	0
Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel	2	0
Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority	5	1