

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Old Market Square

on 22 January 2018 from 2.00 pm - 5.05 pm

### ATTENDANCES:

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✓ Councillor Michael Edwards (Lord Mayor)	
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✓ Councillor Liaqat Ali	✓ Councillor Ginny Klein
✓ Councillor Jim Armstrong	✓ Councillor Dave Liversidge
✓ Councillor Cat Arnold	✓ Councillor Sally Longford
✓ Councillor Leslie Ayoola	✓ Councillor Carole McCulloch
✓ Councillor Ilyas Aziz	✓ Councillor Nick McDonald
✓ Councillor Cheryl Barnard	✓ Councillor David Mellen
✓ Councillor Steve Battlemuch	✓ Councillor Jackie Morris
✓ Councillor Merlita Bryan	✓ Councillor Toby Neal
✓ Councillor Eunice Campbell	✓ Councillor Brian Parbutt
✓ Councillor Graham Chapman	✓ Councillor Anne Peach
✓ Councillor Azad Choudhry	✓ Councillor Sarah Piper
✓ Councillor Jon Collins	✓ Councillor Georgia Power
✓ Councillor Josh Cook	✓ Councillor Nick Raine
✓ Councillor Pat Ferguson	✓ Councillor Andrew Rule
✓ Councillor Brian Grocock	✓ Councillor Mohammed Saghir
✓ Councillor Chris Gibson	✓ Councillor David Smith
✓ Councillor John Hartshorne	✓ Councillor Wendy Smith
✓ Councillor Rosemary Healy	✓ Councillor Chris Tansley
✓ Councillor Nicola Heaton	✓ Councillor Dave Trimble
✓ Councillor Mohammed Ibrahim	✓ Councillor Jane Urquhart
✓ Councillor Patience Uloma Ifediora	✓ Councillor Marcia Watson
✓ Councillor Corall Jenkins	✓ Councillor Sam Webster
✓ Councillor Glyn Jenkins	✓ Councillor Adele Williams
✓ Councillor Sue Johnson	✓ Councillor Malcolm Wood
✓ Councillor Carole-Ann Jones	✓ Councillor Linda Woodings
✓ Councillor Gul Nawaz Khan	✓ Councillor Steve Young
✓ Councillor Neghat Nawaz Khan	

✓ Indicates present at meeting

### 58 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Azad Choudhry – leave  
Councillor Rosemary Healy – work commitments  
Councillor Marcia Watson – unwell

### 59 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

## 60 QUESTIONS FROM CITIZENS

### Temporary Accommodation without Cooking Facilities

Ms A R asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Heritage:

In the last 2 years, how many people have been accommodated by the Council in the Stage Hotel or other emergency accommodation without access to cooking facilities in? How many children have been housed in temporary accommodation for longer than 8 weeks? What is the longest period that a person (with or without children) has been housed in temporary accommodation without cooking facilities in the last 2 years?

Councillor Jane Urquhart replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and thank you to the member of the public who raised this question, which seeks to shed light on the present homelessness crisis in our country and our city. People will see from the motion on the agenda for today's meeting, that this is an issue which Nottingham takes seriously, and one which we're appalled by. We share a sense of outrage, that in our city, people should have to be accommodated in unsuitable bed and breakfast accommodation. I am aware that this question was submitted very shortly before the last Council meeting, and in that space of time it wasn't possible to collate the information, so apologies that we weren't able to answer it then, but we are after the amount of time we needed to collate the information able to answer now.

Councils up and down the country are working hard to deal with increasing levels of homelessness, and Nottingham is not alone in finding itself struggling to find temporary accommodation for households who present with nowhere to stay. A recent report by the National Audit Office states that the record rise in the use of temporary accommodation is due to the Government's welfare reforms and the broken housing market. The use of temporary accommodation such as bed and breakfasts is never a good long term solution – either for the families housed or for the councils making those decisions. Two years ago, this Council did not use bed and breakfast accommodation, and had not done so for some time. We are working hard to get back to this position by finding better, longer-term solutions.

In recent months, we have been able to reduce the number of households in bed and breakfast accommodation by 64%. That still means though, that we have 50 households in B&B accommodation, and that is 50 too many. So we are working hard with our partners to reduce that figure to zero, and we will say more about that of course in the debate later. Over the past two years, 1102 households have been placed in bed and breakfasts in order to meet our statutory duties towards them. This includes a number of single person households, and many of them are placed into bed and breakfasts as an emergency temporary measure to meet our commitment that no one need sleep rough in Nottingham. Our No Second Night Out policy means that we do accommodate people on that short term basis whilst we look for an alternative solution.

We are rapidly reducing our use of bed and breakfast in favour of more suitable accommodation, as well as targeted intervention to prevent homelessness in the first

place. This activity has only been possible through the concerted efforts of service providers across our Council, and our partners, and I thank them for their hard work in seeking to resolve this issue. The specific length of time that any household spends in bed and breakfast varies greatly depending upon their circumstances, and there is great range of lengths of stay, starting at 1 night. The average length of stay over the past 2 years was 38 nights. The longest period that any person has been housed in bed and breakfast is 324 days – this case is a single person with no children, and it is a highly complex and unusual case which we are nevertheless working hard to resolve alongside our partner agencies.

We have searched the data that we and our partner agencies have, but we are unable to provide data on the number of children housed in temporary accommodation for longer than 8 weeks over the past 2 years. But I can tell you, that as of today's date, there remain 26 households who have children in bed and breakfast, again, this is 26 too many. Almost all cases where people are in bed and breakfasts above 8 weeks are there because there are legal complexities in the particular case, such as a statutory review process, or because the family is waiting for a suitable home to be offered to them as an appropriate permanent accommodation. As we have previously discussed in this chamber, government restrictions prevent the Council from building enough social housing to meet the demand, so therefore finding suitable alternative accommodation can be a lengthy process.

Later on this afternoon, I will be proposing a motion which will commit this council to ending its use of bed and breakfast accommodation by the end of 2018. Whilst the rise in homelessness is a national issue, as a Council we want our response to homelessness to be appropriate and compassionate. We know that there are better temporary accommodation solutions than bed and breakfast. I hope that this motion will be passed this afternoon, and that therefore, together with our partners we will work to end the use of bed and breakfast accommodation by the end of the year.

#### Nottingham City Council loan to Robin Hood Energy

Mr W S asked the following question of the Deputy Leader:

The accounts of Robin Hood Energy show that it owes Nottingham City Council £11.6m. It has been stated that interest is due on this loan at "commercial rates". In addition the accounts state that the City Council has confirmed in writing that it will provide "financial support for the foreseeable future". This support is effectively a guarantee and if provided commercially would be heavily charged for. What is the commercial rate on the loan and what is being charged for the effective guarantee?

Councillor Graham Chapman replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and can I also thank W S for his question. The City Council has provided support for Robin Hood Energy on a commercial basis, which both conforms to State Aid rules, and provides the City Council with a rate of return. Unfortunately I am not in a position to provide the specific details, which are a matter of commercial confidentiality.

As to the reference in the accounts to “financial support for the foreseeable future”, it is required by any auditor whenever there is a parent company providing a loan facility, or a parent company guarantee to a subsidiary company. Robin Hood Energy are making a market rate payment in exchange for the guarantee. This will also remain commercially confidential.

So again, I would like to thank W S for his question, and the interest he is taking in his own local energy company, and I am sure he will wish them well.

## **61 PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS ON BEHALF OF CITIZENS**

Councillor Steve Battlemuch presented a petition on behalf of 140 signatories asking for the Council to consider building a skate park and bmx track at Wollaton Park.

## **62 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS OF COUNCIL HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the meetings (ordinary and Extraordinary) held on 13 November 2017 were confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chair.

## **63 TO RECEIVE OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND/OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chief Executive reported the following:

### Nottingham Station Fire

On Friday 12 January, emergency services tackled a significant fire at Nottingham Train Station, which started in the concourse before spreading to the roof. It is a tribute to the tireless work of the emergency services, East Midlands Trains, Network Rail, and our own Council staff that the station was reopened on Saturday morning with services able to resume so quickly. I am proud of the team effort stakeholders in the city displayed over the past week and we will continue to work together to determine the precise level of work needed at the station in the coming months.

Councillor Brian Grocock, Chair of the Fire Authority, also commended the hard work of all parties involved.

### Nottingham Heritage Action Zone

Nottingham was chosen as one of the first ‘Heritage Action Zones’ by Historic England earlier this year and is the largest nationally with a programme of 17 projects transforming the historic heart of the city for citizens and visitors, helping to boost tourism and create jobs.

The largest projects are the conservation area grant schemes in Old Market Square, Lace Market and Sneinton Market Conservation Areas, which will invest nearly £2m in the historic environment of the City Centre in a partnership between NCC, Historic England and businesses.

### Children's Care Homes in Nottingham

I am pleased to report that all of our internal Council Children's Homes, including our short breaks unit, have been judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. Following the inspections, Ofsted reported that all aspects of safeguarding are very well implemented and as a result, young people in Nottingham are kept safe from potential harm. Resilient and committed staff continue to provide high standards of care for young people in Nottingham, regardless of the challenges they face.

### Centenary Cities: 100 Years of Votes for Women

Nottingham City Council, in partnership with local women's organisations has been granted funding from the Government Equalities Office to commemorate the 1918 Representation of the People Act, which granted the vote to some British women for the first time in national elections.

In collaboration with the Nottingham Women's History Group, Nottingham Women's Centre and The Party Somewhere Else, Nottingham City Council submitted a successful bid for some of this funding (£17,850 in total). The money will be used to plan and deliver a series of events and activities throughout the year. Activities will range across the themes of art, community, history and politics and will aim to reach as many of the city's diverse communities as possible.

### Former Councillor Eunice Timson

It is with sadness that I inform you of the death of former councillor Eunice Timson who was elected as a Conservative councillor on 6 May 1976 to represent the Byron Ward, and represented the ward until 1980. Her funeral was held on 28 December at Gedling Crematorium.

### Councillor Georgina Culley

Finally, it is with great sadness that I inform Council that Councillor Georgina Culley, leader of the Conservative group, passed away on 25 November. Councillor Culley represented the citizens of Wollaton since she was elected on 2 May 1991. For a while in the 1990s she was the only Conservative councillor in Nottingham. She became leader of the Conservative group in 2004.

Councillors' Andrew Rule and Chris Gibson spoke in tribute to Councillor Georgina Culley and a minutes' silence was held.

### **64 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS - TO THE CITY COUNCIL'S LEAD COUNCILLOR ON THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

None.

**65 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS - TO A MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE BOARD, THE CHAIR OF A COMMITTEE AND THE CHAIR OF ANY OTHER CITY COUNCIL BODY**

Robin Hood Energy Results

Councillor Jim Armstrong asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Energy and Sustainability:

Can the Portfolio Holder offer reassurance to the customers of Robin Hood Energy that its recent results will have no effect on ongoing supply?

Councillor Dave Liversidge replied as follows:

Thank you Councillor Armstrong, I certainly can.

Evicted Nottingham City Homes Tenants

Councillor Jim Armstrong asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Heritage:

Can the Portfolio Holder comment on what steps the City Council takes to ensure that tenants evicted from properties managed by Nottingham City Homes do not become homeless?

Councillor Jane Urquhart replied as follows:

Thank you Councillor Armstrong. Of course, as will become clear from the debate that we have later on in the agenda, the largest cause of homelessness both locally in Nottingham and nationally, is through eviction from private rented homes; eviction from socially rented houses makes a very small contribution, both nationally and locally. However, even though it's a very small part of the homelessness picture in Nottingham, Nottingham City Homes and Nottingham City Council have in place a protocol to manage the risk that tenants evicted from Nottingham City Homes properties might become homeless. This involves close working between officers within relevant departments and early intervention to prevent tenants getting into problems in the first place.

It is, of course, important that Nottingham City takes action when tenants are unwilling to pay their rent, or when their behaviour breaks their tenancy agreement. But it is, of course, equally important that Nottingham City Homes and ourselves take action to support and sustain tenancies in those cases where tenants become unable to pay their rent. That is why Nottingham City Homes have Tenancy Sustainment Officers, and why we work so closely with them to prevent homelessness wherever we can. We have been monitoring the effectiveness of the protocol in recent months, as part of our drive to reduce the use of temporary bed and breakfast accommodation, which I alluded to earlier in response to a public question. And therefore, I am able to say that since this active monitoring of the protocol began at the back end of last year, the number of evictees being made homeless has been zero.

### Chargeable Parking Permit Schemes

Councillor Andrew Rule asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services and Local Transport:

Can the Portfolio Holder update the Chamber on what progress has been made with the review on chargeable permit schemes currently being undertaken by officers within her Portfolio?

Councillor Sally Longford replied as follows:

Thank you Councillor Rule for your question. The current adopted policy for residents parking schemes dates back to 1999, and is in need of a refresh. I have tasked officers with undertaking a review of the existing policy and to bring forward a revised policy for adoption as soon as practicable. I am expecting the review to be completed very soon.

### Support from the Council for Robin Hood Energy

Councillor Andrew Rule asked the following question of the Deputy Leader:

Can the Deputy Leader confirm what impact the reliance that Robin Hood Energy's board have placed on ongoing support from the Council will have on the Council's forthcoming budget; what form it is envisaged this support will take; and what information has been provided by the company to justify the business case for providing this additional support?

Councillor Graham Chapman replied as follows:

Can I thank Councillor Rule for his question. To answer this question directly; One: The effect on the Council budget will be positive, in that the Council is charging a higher rate for loans than our pooled borrowing rates, and the Council will also receive a payment for the guarantee. The interest charged, which is commercially confidential, conforms to State Aid Regulations. In short, there is no subsidy, which I presume is the assumption underlying the question. On the contrary, there is benefit. Two: the support will take the form of a draw down loan facility, and a guarantee to enable hedging, which is sensible. Three: we have received considerable information in carrying out due diligence, indeed we've got external verification from Price Waterhouse Cooper prior to agreeing the loan.

But I would then remind him that although Robin Hood Energy reported a loss at the end of March 2017, I am informed that the company is on track to break even by the end of March 2018, and move into profitability thereafter, that is, in the third and fourth year. I will also remind the Councillor that it took Co-op Energy and First Utility four years to break even. In addition, Bristol Energy is set to take five years to break even, and Ovo Energy hasn't reached break even yet, despite being set up in 2009. So Robin Hood Energy is ahead of the curve, so we are assured.

One of the reasons debt has been incurred is the actual rapid expansion of the company. In a sense, it is due to success. If you are new and expanding in an industry where you have both set up costs and many payments are in arrears, and

you are hedging your stock purchase, then you will inevitably get high levels of borrowing, and I would expect the Councillor to understand that given his background.

So I fully expect it will go through the normal cycle of a new firm, and move into profit, which will obviously benefit the shareholder, which is the Council. Moreover, Robin Hood Energy has developed quite rapidly, and it's worth reminding him – currently it has 118,000 customers and 187 supply points and, just as a matter of interest, the last time I looked at these figures there were 109,000, so it's gone up by 9,000 within a short period of time. Robin Hood Energy has also saved customers an average of £150 per annum, compared to the big six standard tariffs. In addition, since starting up, Robin Hood Energy has continued to create jobs locally, with employees who wouldn't probably otherwise be employed. Robin Hood Energy has taken on six additional white label partners to help tackle fuel poverty across the country, with more in the pipeline. It has done an enormous amount for the reputation of the Council. Robin Hood Energy has installed over 20,000 smart meters.

Robin Hood Energy is paying business rates, in addition to interest to the Council. Robin Hood Energy has contributed to opening up the market and reducing rates right across the board nationally. Therefore, can I thank the Councillor for the interest he is taking in Robin Hood Energy, and I will remind him that the last time municipalities moved in to energy was not in 1974, but 1874, by one Joseph Chamberlain, the leader at Birmingham, who ended up as a Tory. He purchased gas companies on behalf of the Council, and no doubt initially he accumulated debt, but in the long run it was to the benefit of the citizens of Birmingham, and set an example to the rest of the country. So municipal enterprise has a long and honourable pedigree, all we are doing now in Nottingham is reviving 1874 Tory policies. You might actually say, that we in this chamber in that respect are old Tories, and I'm also sure that Councillor Battlemuch who is Chair of Robin Hood Energy, will be the first to agree. Thank you.

### 100 Years of Women's Suffrage

Councillor Linda Woodings asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Heritage:

Following the good news that the City Council has been awarded funding to help mark 100 years of women's suffrage, could the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Heritage tell Council how this money will be used to celebrate Nottingham's heritage as a city of suffrage?

Councillor Jane Urquhart replied as follows:

Thank you Councillor Woodings for your question. Of course, in Nottingham we know that heritage is not only about buildings and physical assets, it is also about our shared history, and the lived experiences that our city collectively has. As the Chief Executive announced earlier in the meeting, Nottingham will benefit from a share of £1,200,000 from the government to celebrate the centenary of the 1918 Representation of the People Act. We are in that alongside six other centenary cities: Bolton, Bristol, Leeds, Leicester, London and Manchester. As the Chief Executive outlined, we are working in partnership in order to deliver celebratory events and

engagement events for this year, and in fact Councillor Woodings will be taking a leading role in delivering some of this work.

Activities will range across a wide range of themes, community, history, art and politics, and will be aiming to reach out to as many of our communities across our city as we are able to. We will be looking to have some public art and street theatre in the city centre to engage citizens who may well be unaware of the centenary; a 7 day festival celebrating women in performance, including drama workshops for young women to build their confidence so that they can get their voices heard and to look at what the political climate currently means for them; focus groups and workshops to encourage women to share some of the issues they're facing today to help them to better understand again how their issues can be heard; and we will be looking at the unveiling of a Blue Plaque linked to Nottingham's suffrage movement.

We will be working with our schools as well to promote knowledge and understanding of women's suffrage, and hosting discussions in this very building on the subject as well. Our community centres too will be involved, looking to the future to say, "Well what should our democracies look like in a further 100 years' time?" We will also be looking at having exhibitions in local libraries which would celebrate the history of women's suffrage in the city, as well as extensive online and social media campaigns. So we are hoping to engage and support a diverse mixture of people within the city through these community base activities, ensuring that there is a legacy far beyond these activities for generations to come.

We hope that by recognising both the people and the places that have contributed to women's suffrage across the years, this will be an engaging programme, and will engage with women who may feel excluded from political processes. Because we know that even now, 100 years on from women's suffrage, we know that women often don't feel empowered to even register to vote, let alone go out to vote. And when we look around our chamber today we can see that we have not achieved 50% of women councillors in our city yet, so there remains a way to go. I hope that this awarded funding will help us take some of those additional steps along the way.

### Collapse of Carillion

Councillor Jackie Morris asked the following question of the Deputy Leader:

Could the Deputy Leader comment on what the impact of the collapse of Carillion will be on Nottingham?

Councillor Graham Chapman replied as follows:

Can I thank the Councillor for the question, thank you Lord Mayor as well. So what has happened? What we have just witnessed is the collapse of a major outsourcing firm; Carillion. It leaves behind it a train of debtors, shareholders with major losses, unfinished projects, employees without jobs, a pension's deficit, and a scandal of directors who have rewarded themselves excessively before the firm went bust. We also have a number of other major outsourcing firms in difficulty. As for the effect on Nottingham, in terms of the Council, then Carillion is indirectly involved with us in three ways.

We have involvement in three schools only, under PFI (Private Finance Initiative) - Oak Wood, Oak Field and Farnborough, where Carillion is a sub sub-contractor for facilities management. Our schools have remained open and no disruption to service has been reported. The PFI provider, the intermediary which manages the contracts, has been putting contingency plans into operation which will ensure these services continue in the medium to long term.

Where we have joint services operating through the LIFT (Local Improvement Finance Trust) process, which is the second category – Mary Potter, Riverside and Cornerstone, then Carillion is the sub-contractor to what is called the LIFTco, which manages the contract. As with schools, the centres have remained open and there is no disruption to service. Again, LIFTco has implemented contingency plans to ensure that service continues.

At Highfields Park the Council has a £5,000,000 Heritage Lottery funded project on site, sub-contracted to Carillion as far back as 2013. It involves de-silting parts of the lake and carrying out some restoration work. The Council's contract is with the Local Education Partnership, perversely enough, who sub-contract the work to Carillion. Work is continuing on this site at present and there are discussions between the various parties to ensure the project can be completed.

Council officers will monitor the implementation of all of these contingency plans to ensure that there is no disruption to service in all three categories. In terms of the wider Nottingham economy, we do not know what the implications are, even though we've tried to find out, other than at the QMC, where the Council has already taken over the grounds maintenance contract, and I believe cleansing and car park supervision are being brought in-house. Should there be any serious threats to other sectors, then we will work through Nottingham Jobs and the Growth Hub with employees and businesses to provide practical support.

What this crisis has done is bring into question the concept of outsourcing. Now, some will say there is no role for the private sector on delivering public services. Clearly this is not the case. For large schemes such as the tram or the Broadmarsh car park rebuilding, even the dredging of Highfields Lake, it is appropriate for the private sector, we have not got the capacity or expertise. Another category where we need the private sector is for overflow. There are occasions where we have to go to the private sector because we are overstretched - Legal for example. And then there are specialist facilities which only the private sector can provide, for example the due diligence on Robin Hood Energy was done by PWC (Price Waterhouse Cooper), and those are very proper roles. However, I do not believe the private sector should be other than tangentially involved in people based services, such as probation in particular, and in core services such as waste and public transport, and even some utilities. Anywhere where subsidies are required and long-term investment and commitment is required. There is not the motivation from the private sector to direct cash into the service, as opposed to in shareholding. A structural and not necessarily personal issue. There is not the motivation to put individual clients first, and often these clients are amongst the most vulnerable.

Carillion is a microcosm of the problem. Once it got into those areas, and away from its core function, which I'll remind some of you used to be tarmac, it struggled. There is a myth that outsourcing and PFI makes a mint for the private sector. For some, the

lawyers and accountants who help arrange the deal, it can do so. In some cases, individual contracts have also made huge profits. But in many cases, it does not, hence the problems that private providers are having in surviving. Quite simply, the rate of return does not materialise, and there is less public sector money by the year to provide that margin. Yet they are still taking on contracts, because they have, for example, contracting units which get paid bonuses and get into bid fever. I've seen it first-hand. They underestimate how complicated running the public sector is. They take on the myth that the public sector is so inefficient that they can't fail to do a better job and make a profit, which is patently untrue. They go into areas with insufficient experience, and then on top there is an expectation of dividend distribution and reward which they cannot fulfil, but which they do, at the expense of the viability of the firm.

PFI in particular creates complex structures, which as we have seen with the public sector contractors, through sub-contracting that I've just described – you've got a sub-contractor plus a sub-contractor, and often that is then sub-contracted thereafter. So everyone loses, public and private sector. And certainly everyone, apart from a few cynical board members, has lost in this case. So it is not simply a matter of private bad, public good; it is that the whole structure and relationships and perceptions within the outsourcing and PFI sector are deeply flawed. Not to mention, and don't get me on this, is the stubbornness of HM Treasury and its attitude to debt and accounting, which has tried to keep debt off the national books through PFI, which doesn't work. But I get very irritated with the Treasury, I could spend hours telling you why, but you'd probably all fall asleep.

And it was for all of these reasons that Nottingham has been so skeptical. This City Council has been so skeptical about outsourcing, and we have kept services in-house, and brought services which were outsourced back in. NCT, Nottingham City Transport, the best bus company in the country, and why? Because it's in the public sector and it's re-invested. It was mentioned today in a national newspaper as being a wonderful example of municipal enterprise. Grounds maintenance and selling plants to other councils, we have brought catering back in-house. We have brought building maintenance back in house, it saved £800,000 in one year. Parking enforcement we have brought back and it's more effective and it's actually more responsive. We've brought security back in and given people better conditions, and there is one more to come, but I'm not revealing which one it is. And this is despite enormous pressure over the years from all governments, and I would add CPA Inspectors who thought they knew better, telling us that we should be outsourcing more.

Indeed, one of the reasons we have been so financially resilient up until this year, is that we have economies of scale afforded by keeping so many services in-house, and the flexibility this provides. It is also one of the reasons why a number of Conservative councils are so financially fragile. I'll give you the example of Northamptonshire, which is the most fragile council in the country, and one of the reasons is that it is excessively outsourced, and it's got nowhere else to go for its savings because most of the contracts are fixed. But before we get complacent, the above only works in the public sector with good management, with motivated staff, and with trade unions who understand the long term implications. It only works if there is also capacity to invest, and that is becoming a real problem at the moment with the incessant cuts. This brings me on to my final point.

If the government wants decent public services, and its preferred option, privatisation, is beginning to fall apart, then we need one thing, they need to do one thing. They need to fund us properly, and to fund us in a way which allows us to invest in the long term for the public good. And it can only do that in one way, which is further tax rises, and I would advise them very strongly to start with corporation tax and bringing it back to the sensible level it was under the Labour government. That way we can invest in our economy, and that way the private sector will benefit from a healthy public sector.

### Metro Strategy Summit

Councillor Josh Cook asked the following question of the Leader:

Could the Leader give an update on the progress of the Metro Strategy following the Metro Strategy Summit in Derby last week?

Councillor Jon Collins replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor. Members will know the Metro Strategy was launched in May last year, providing a framework for how Nottingham and Derby councils can drive economic growth for the two cities and provide direct benefits to our citizens.

Since last May various teams across the two councils have been working together to deliver the strategy with a number of very early wins to demonstrate how working together can offer better services to people across both cities.

These include travel discounts through Trent Barton, when residents attend particular events in each other's cities, access to gym and swim facilities for those with gym memberships in either city, a joined up library service where books can be borrowed or returned in both cities, and more recently an agreement for Nottingham to start delivering trade waste services in and on behalf of Derby City Council. Finally, a Metro careers campaign, which is due to start in March this year, will aim to raise the profile of job opportunities across both cities, and at the same time aiming to raise aspirations of young people and their parents.

Over last summer we commissioned a report by a company called Metro Dynamics, which is an independent consultancy, to review the potential for closer working links between the two cities. Their findings suggested that there is significant economic benefit to be gained by both cities through the expansion and this joined up approach. The Metro Strategy Summit held earlier last week, provided the opportunity to discuss the findings of this work with a wider group of stakeholders, and to see whether there was an appetite for working alongside the two councils. Over 100 representatives, from local businesses and other organisations attended the event, which resulted in a very positive commitment from the private sector, education sector and councils to explore this further.

Our next step is to establish a Metro Growth Board, made up of businesses leaders, alongside the leaders of both councils, who want to be part of what I call a 'coalition of the willing', and alongside the Vice Chancellors of our Universities, to develop and take forward the Metro Strategy. Transport links between the two cities, skills and

education, the development of place, and business growth and innovation were all identified as priorities

### Funding for Social Care

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

Will the Portfolio Holder for Adults and Health call upon the Government to give the funding needed for social care to help deal with pressure on our local hospitals, staff and our residents?

Councillor Nick McDonald replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and thank you Councillor McCulloch for your question. I am pleased to be able to answer that question, it is also an opportunity to talk to the chamber about the nature of the issues that we face this winter, and absolutely to call upon the government to respond to it better so that we can respond to it better.

So just to give you an outline of the picture Lord Mayor. Last week our hospital was facing unprecedented pressures. The health and social care system across Nottinghamshire has also been under enormous pressure since Christmas, following an increase in the number of seriously unwell patients and confirmed cases of flu. Last week the system declared a business continuity incident, so that extraordinary action could be taken to restore flow, ensure patient safety and maximise discharges. 75 additional beds were initially made available, and then a further 45. All partners continue to prioritise emergency, urgent and cancer care. Additional appointments were made at some GP surgeries, and staff across the health and social care system worked over and above to keep patients safe.

The public were asked to help us by choosing the right advice for them, making use of pharmacies, urgent care centres and the 111 service where possible, and as a result the system was able to step down the Greater Nottingham health and social care business continuity incident on Thursday, as a result of the exceptional actions taken across the system. Pressures were expected to continue this week, and indeed that appears to be the case, and the tremendous effort from all staff in the NHS and across social care and across the council I think should be applauded.

But this is something we're seeing routinely now, I get informed when we have black alerts at our hospitals, and that is becoming an almost daily occurrence. That is a bleak picture, but it is a bleak picture not just in relation to our hospitals, but also in relation to our adult social care services, the services that this council runs. Many older people need care at home when they leave hospital. We are seeing an increase both in the number of people needing homecare and the amount of homecare that they need. In addition due to our work with NHS partners to get people out of hospital more quickly when they no longer need to be there, people are coming out sooner with higher need. People are getting out of hospital more quickly when they don't need to be there and that is a good thing, it is the right thing to do for that person in most cases, and it is also good for the public purse because it costs less to help people in the community than it does in consultant led A&E beds. But there is insufficient money in the system passed to social care to make that happen.

Whilst for many councils the additional funding provided by the Chancellor in the Spring Budget of 2017 enabled them to invest in new services, and we're talking inevitably about rural types of authorities with less need, our additional £7,200,000 had to be used to stop us cutting services that year; we weren't able to provide anything additional, and as a result we went into winter unable to fund additional services that are so clearly needed. Last week instead of people going home, people were having to move into residential care and nursing beds whilst they were waiting for community services they so desperately need. Not only is this bad for patients, because 78% of people that go into short term residential care never come out, it also comes at a greater cost to the public system.

Now, we know that NHS England is making money available to systems, but it's way too little, and it's way too late. Short term funding provided in the middle of a winter crisis does not help develop the sustainable solution, and it is not what Nottingham's citizens deserve. We are in a particularly difficult position in Nottingham, we have very high levels of deprivation, we are unable to raise high levels of council tax and we have low levels of self-funders – that is people who can fully fund or partly fund their own social care. We need funding that takes account of those factors.

Of course it's absolutely the case that the system needs to change and modernise; people have been saying that for decades. The integration of adult social care and health is absolutely fundamental, particularly as demand rises, as it has been doing for a long time; this is not a new issue, it's been the case for many years that this growing crisis was inevitable absent change. But it needs to be properly funded.

There is an absence of national policy, it has been left to local areas to try and sort it out, with declining amounts of money. And if the position doesn't change, the funding doesn't change, if it's not properly invested in and adult social care is not properly invested in, not only is that going to be bad for people in this city and elsewhere, it's going to result in rising costs to the system and a tipping point that will; cause a huge national crisis, not just a crisis in Nottingham. We should be calling that out at a local level. We should be calling that out at a local level, because despite doing our best working with our partners to deliver that change that is needed, we cannot do it if the money is not provided by government, and at the moment that is the case.

## **66 NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LGBCE WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW**

The Leader submitted a report on the Nottingham City Council response to the draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) review of electoral equality in Nottingham city, as set out in a supplement to the agenda.

### **RESOLVED to**

- (1) accept the draft recommendations of the LGBCE in respect of the Aspley, Basford, Berridge, Bestwood, Bilborough, Bulwell, Bulwell endorse Forest, Dales, Leen Valley, Lenton and Wollaton East, Mapperley, Radford, St Anns, Sherwood, and Wollaton West wards;**

- (2) accept the amendments to the LGBCE's recommendations in relation to the proposed Park, City, New Meadows, Embankment, Arboretum, Hyson Green, Clifton North and Clifton South wards;
- (3) delegate authority to the Leader to make any necessary amendments to the report following on from the Council debate.

## **67 DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES**

The Leader submitted a report on Decisions taken under Urgency Procedures, as set out on pages 29 to 34 of the agenda.

### **RESOLVED to**

- (1) note the urgent decisions (exempt from call-in):

<b><u>Ref no</u></b>	<b><u>Date of decision</u></b>	<b><u>Subject</u></b>	<b><u>Value of decision</u></b>	<b><u>Reasons for urgency</u></b>
3004	13/11/2017	Investment Acquisition – Project Doncaster	Exempt	To allow call-in would affect the completion date of the project
3013	23/11/2017	Appeal to the Supreme Court	Exempt	To enable the deadline set by the Supreme Court to be met
3015	28/11/2017	Allocation of funding to support a DfE bid for the proposed expansion of Fernwood Secondary School	£999,000	To enable the bid deadline to be met
3016	01/12/2017	Licence to Department for Work and Pensions for additional office space in Loxley House	Exempt	To ensure that the deadline to commence the works to accommodate the additional staff can be met prior to the lease coming into effect
3037	21/12/2017	Approval for funding to finalise the account for the housing development at Lenton	Exempt	To meet the payment deadline of 31 December
3039	21/12/2017	Affordable Housing Acquisition –	Exempt	The Council needs to release additional funds in order to settle the

		<b>Radford Bridge Allotments, Wollaton</b>		<b>final account with Keepmoat for the development of the Lenton site. A number of payments are already overdue by a considerable length of time and if the Council does not pay these bills as soon as possible then Keepmoat can legitimately charge interest on the outstanding payments – this interest could potentially run into 6 figures. Keepmoats financial year ends on 31 December and so the payments must have been made by this time. It will require a number of days for the payment to be processed by the Council and by Keepmoat and with the Christmas period we will need to begin this process on the day of the Leaders Key decision to be confident that we avoid significant additional costs to the Council.</b>
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- (2) note that no key decisions were taken under special urgency procedures.**

**68 TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2017/18 HALF YEARLY UPDATE**

The Deputy Leader submitted a report on the Treasury Management actions and performance in 2017/18 up to 30 September 2017, as set out on pages 35 to 52 of the agenda.

**RESOLVED to**

- (1) note the Treasury Management actions taken in 2017/18 to 30 September 2017, detailed in the report;**

- (2) approve the revision of the prudential indicators within the 2017/18 Treasury Management Strategy, detailed in section 5.3 of the report.**

**69 MOTION**

Moved by Councillor Jane Urquhart, seconded by Councillor Cheryl Barnard:

This Council is deeply concerned by the significant increase in people at risk of or facing homelessness. Since 2010, the number of people applying to the Council as homeless has increased by 44%. This Council believes that the government's inadequate response to rising homelessness has allowed the situation to become a crisis.

This Council calls on the Government to:

- Provide adequate funding to enable Councils to successfully implement the Homelessness Reduction Act;
- Ensure that changes to the way that supported housing is funded meet the needs that Councils have identified;
- Reform the legal framework for assured shorthold tenancies to give those renting privately greater security and certainty
- Set Councils free to build the homes that local people need.

This Council commits to:

- Continuing our 'No Second Night Out' policy, ensuring that no one need sleep rough in Nottingham;
- Ensuring sufficient provision of temporary accommodation, so that no family is placed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation by the end of 2018;
- Working with the private rented sector in order to prevent and alleviate homelessness;
- Work with partners to ensure a joined up approach to preventing homelessness and ensuring those who do become homeless can easily access the appropriate support;
- Developing a new five year homelessness prevention strategy which sets out our vision for homelessness prevention and how, in partnership, we will deliver it;
- Promoting access to employment advice and support initiatives to improve financial resilience.

**RESOLVED to carry the motion.**

**70 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

**RESOLVED to note the following in-year changes to non-executive committee memberships approved by the Corporate Director for Strategy and Resources:**

- (a) Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee – the appointment of Councillor Andrew Rule to fill a vacancy;**
- (b) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – the appointment of Councillor Andrew Rule to fill a vacancy;**
- (c) Health and Wellbeing Board – the appointment of Councillor Cheryl Barnard to replace Councillor Steve Battlemuch;**

- (d) Health Scrutiny Committee – the removal of Councillor Cheryl Barnard as a substitute;**
- (e) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – the appointment of Councillor Jim Armstrong to fill a vacancy;**
- (f) Standards Committee – the appointment of Councillor Andrew Rule to fill a vacancy, and the appointment of Councillor Jim Armstrong as a substitute to fill a vacancy.**