

Public Document Pack

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council Chamber - at the Council House

on 21 January 2019 from 2.00 pm - 4.50 pm

ATTENDANCES:

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| ✓ Councillor Liaqat Ali (Lord Mayor) | |
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| ✓ Councillor Cat Arnold | ✓ Councillor Sally Longford |
| ✓ Councillor Jim Armstrong | ✓ Councillor Carole McCulloch |
| ✓ Councillor Leslie Ayoola | ✓ Councillor Nick McDonald |
| ✓ Councillor Ilyas Aziz | ✓ Councillor David Mellen |
| ✓ Councillor Cheryl Barnard | ✓ Councillor Jackie Morris |
| ✓ Councillor Steve Battlemuch | ✓ Councillor Toby Neal |
| Councillor Merlita Bryan | ✓ Councillor Brian Parbutt |
| Councillor Eunice Campbell-Clark | ✓ Councillor Anne Peach |
| ✓ Councillor Graham Chapman | ✓ Councillor Sarah Piper |
| ✓ Councillor Azad Choudhry | ✓ Councillor Georgia Power |
| ✓ Councillor Jon Collins | ✓ Councillor Nick Raine |
| ✓ Councillor Josh Cook | ✓ Councillor Andrew Rule |
| ✓ Councillor Michael Edwards | ✓ Councillor Mohammed Saghir |
| ✓ Councillor Chris Gibson | ✓ Councillor David Smith |
| Councillor Brian Grocock | ✓ Councillor Wendy Smith |
| ✓ Councillor John Hartshorne | Councillor Chris Tansley |
| ✓ Councillor Rosemary Healy | ✓ Councillor Dave Trimble |
| ✓ Councillor Nicola Heaton | 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 Cate Woodward |
| ✓ Councillor Neghat Khan | ✓ Councillor Steve Young |
| Councillor Ginny Klein | ✓ Councillor Roger Steel |
| ✓ Councillor Dave Liversidge | |

✓ Indicates present at meeting

60 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Merlita Bryan - unwell
Councillor Eunice Campbell-Clark - leave
Councillor Brian Grocock – other Council business
Councillor Sue Johnson - unwell
Councillor Ginny Klein - unwell
Councillor Chris Tansley – unwell

Councillor Jane Urquhart – leave
Councillor Marcia Watson - personal

61 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

62 QUESTIONS FROM CITIZENS

Equality Impact Assessments

WC asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Community Protection:

The Equality Impact Assessment completed prior to the cut made in respect of the changes to concessionary mobility passes says the changes will have a detrimental impact on 500 disabled people. It is likely that this figure is wrong and the cut is affecting hundreds of people. Does the Council think that their Equality Impact Assessments are fit for purpose?

Councillor Neal replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and can I thank the member of the public for their question.

We believe and recognise that the diversity of Nottingham's communities is a huge asset, which should be valued and seen as one of the City's great strengths. The people who live, work, study in or visit Nottingham come from diverse backgrounds and circumstances. They are of all ages, races and ethnic groups, disabled and non-disabled, and they are from faith and non-faith backgrounds.

As one of the largest employers in Nottingham and one of the main providers of local services, the City Council is committed to providing equality of opportunity and tackling discrimination, harassment, intimidation and disadvantage. We are also committed to achieving the highest standards in service delivery, decision-making and employment practice.

Before making important decisions, we are committed to considering the potential impact on citizens, communities and colleagues, and wherever possible, including early consultation with colleagues and community representatives. The legislation around equalities requires public authorities to carry out Equality Impact Assessments on significant changes to policies and practices. As a Council, we have designed a process to ensure that a policy, project or scheme does not discriminate against any disadvantaged or vulnerable people. As a Council, we carry out over 150 formal Equality Impact Assessments per year. Alongside this process, we use data and intelligence from key internal and external consultative groups, such as the BME Forum and the Disability Involvement Group to inform our decision making and carry out regular training sessions with officers to improve the standard of our work. Equality Impact Assessments are routinely scrutinised by the Equalities Team at the Council who make recommendations as to content and will signpost to relevant community resources for further information. It is fair to say that our processes are constantly being updated as experiences inform our practice. By scrutinising the impact of our decisions, we're better able to identify gaps in our services and support officers to carry out robust and meaningful assessments.

The information contained in the Equality Impact Assessment for Mobility Bus Passes highlighted that the concession entitlement applied to around 1000 pass holders, but it was estimated that around half of these would be unaffected as they used their passes after 9:30am or could move their journey times to after 9:30am. The information was calculated

following assessment of the actual electronically held data records from the concessionary travel ticketing system, and we are confident that the statements contained in the Equality Impact Assessment are an accurate representation of the number of users impacted by the change. In this context the Equality Impact Assessment is considered fit for purpose.

This is a change that we did not want to make, but without funding from government we are unable to continue to subsidise the scheme in our current financial climate. Mobility card holders and their companions will still be able to travel for free in Nottingham and nationally off-peak Monday to Friday, and all day at weekends.

Notwithstanding that, I will continue to work with officers across the Council to ensure that Equality Impact Assessments are both effective and achieve meaningful outcomes.

Thank you.

Customer service and customer care

AD asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning:

The Council frequently surveys citizens about a variety of issues and policies using an on-line mechanism which is easy for citizens to access with one click. However, for Have Your Say: Comments, Compliments & Complaints, the citizen is required to create an account and receives a security warning when they attempt to access the site. The same is true for e.petitions. Only 9 people managed to get past these barriers between November and January to sign the Reverse Mobility Card Cuts petition on the Council website despite an assurance being given to me at the end of November that the urgency of the situation had been raised with your IT Department. How will the Council address this to ensure that complaints and signatures to e.petitions can be received on your website as easily as you receive feedback from the surveys you take of citizens' views on particular subjects?

Councillor Woodings replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor. I'd like to thank this citizen for raising this matter.

Nottingham City Council prides itself on being one of the most open and transparent councils in the country with the information we provide to citizens via our website. We have many different ways that people can make contact with us, including our well-used Engage Nottingham Hub – a page that is easily found on our main Council site.

The Have Your Say process allows all citizens to contact us and tell us what they think of the services we offer. We encourage citizens to create an account so we can respond to their request and keep them informed of progress, however citizens can also use the system anonymously if they prefer. It states on the Council website: "you can make a comment or complaint anonymously, but by not providing contact details, the service will be unable to provide you with a response". I can assure this citizen that I have personally checked that the anonymous link is working on each and every one of the current consultations that are open for comment and we have not been made aware of any other problems reported with the consultations page.

In relation to e-petitions, Nottingham City Council welcomes petitions and recognises that they are one way in which people can let us know their concerns. To facilitate

this we have an e-petitions system on the website which enables citizens to create and sign petitions electronically. However, it is correct that in order to create or sign a petition you are required to complete a short registration process, providing an email address and password. This is a standard feature of all e-petition sites. It is a requirement of the software we use to manage e-petitions and it prevents users signing individual petitions multiple times. Our Constitutional Services department were contacted recently about difficulties a citizen was having in accessing the e-petition system on the Council's website. At the time, the issue appeared to have resulted from the security settings for that part of the site. Our colleagues in IT were alerted to this and resolved this issue. The system was tested afterwards to make sure everyone could both set up and sign petitions. Some time after this Constitutional Services were made aware that new users were having difficulty creating user accounts and could therefore neither create nor sign petitions. This was immediately raised with our software provider who has now fixed this problem. Unfortunately it took a long time to fix this and so the e-petition referred to in the question has now been re-opened.

We would like to apologise to the citizen who experienced difficulties with creating an e-petition and any other citizens who struggled to sign a live petition during this period. I would like to reassure all councillors and citizens that the issues have now been resolved.

Despite these glitches in the system I can assure Full Council that this hasn't stopped representations on many different issues being made to the Council. All councillors' email addresses and phone numbers are published on the website and we receive and deal with many thousands of issues on behalf of, and representations from Nottingham citizens every year.

63 PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS ON BEHALF OF CITIZENS

Councillor Adele Williams submitted a petition regarding time restrictions introduced for Robin Hood Mobility Card holders. The petitioners requested that the decision to introduce time restrictions for Mobility Card holders be reversed by 1 April 2019 and that the Council find the resources to reverse the time restriction without cuts to other services, new charges or increases in charges elsewhere. The accompanying online petition is still open.

64 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

65 TO RECEIVE OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND/OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Ian Curryer, Chief Executive, reported the following:

Councillor Mohammed Ibrahim

It is with great sadness that I inform Council that Councillor Mohammed Ibrahim passed away on 25 December. Councillor Ibrahim was first elected to the Council in

1987 to represent the citizens of Forest ward, a role which he carried out for the next 8 years. Since 2003 he has represented the citizens of Berridge ward. During his periods of office he was both an active ward councillor and involved with many committees, including holding the position of Lord Mayor in 1993/1994.

Councillors Jones and Saghir spoke in tribute to Councillor Mohammed Ibrahim, and a minute's silence was held.

Ian Curryer, Chief Executive, reported the following:

Fields in Trust Centenary Fields Programme

Bulwell Recreation Ground has been designated as a Centenary Field, ensuring green space is protected as a living remembrance to those who fought and lost their lives in World War One. This new status has been marked by the planting of three native oak trees on the site.

Energy Awards

In December the Council was announced as the winner of the Energy Awards' award for Best Local Authority Initiative of the Year for its Smart Energy Buildings. The Council was commended on its innovative approach to reducing the Council's energy demand to improve its environmental performance and help manage its budget.

Bed and Breakfast Accommodation

The number of households facing homelessness in Nottingham has increased in recent years and it became necessary to rely on the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for households who required emergency housing. The Council recognised that the sustained use of bed and breakfast was unsuitable and set a target of zero households in bed and breakfast by the end of 2018. To achieve this measures were taken as part of a planned approach including:

- delivery of more interventions that prevent homelessness, for example introducing an Eviction Prevention Panel and system of home visiting, closer work with the private rented sector and changes to Housing Aid;
- delivery of more suitable types of temporary accommodation, for example Nottingham City Homes properties and Registered Provider supported housing; and
- facilitating access to permanent accommodation, for example enhanced partnership working with private sector landlords and a programme of property acquisitions,

With the support of Nottingham City Homes, the Council delivered the plan which reduced the number of households in bed and breakfast accommodation from over 100 households in August 2018 to zero by Christmas Eve. Work continues to progress to ensure the commitment to cease the use of bed and breakfast for homeless households is maintained in the long term.

Councillor Woodings spoke about bed and breakfast accommodation and thanked colleagues for their work to reduce the number of households in bed and breakfast accommodation to zero.

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

Membership of secret societies

Councillor Jim Armstrong asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

Does the Leader believe that for the Council to continue to be open and transparent, any councillor or member of the Council who finds themselves a member of a secretive organisation which does not publish its membership or its goals, should declare that they are so?

Councillor Jon Collins replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor. It is in the Council's Standing Orders, Part 4 Paragraph 34 in fact, that a councillor who is a member of a secret society and intends to speak at Council, or at a Board or Committee of the Council at which a matter involving or associated with that society or a member of that society is to be considered, and before that matter is considered, should declare a non-pecuniary interest in it. It then goes on to define a secret society for the purposes of Standing Orders. If Councillor Armstrong is interested in finding out more about secret societies I would encourage him to familiarise himself with this aspect of the Council's Standing Orders.

Robin Hood Energy

Councillor Jim Armstrong asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

Is the recent resignation of the Council Leader from the Board of Robin Hood Energy and the subsequent £5.5m funding from Council resources in any way linked?

Councillor Jon Collins replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor. No.

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System

Councillor Andrew Rule asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health:

Following the Portfolio Holder's decision to suspend the City Council's membership of the Nottingham and Nottingham Integrated Care System can the Portfolio Holder update the Chamber on the progress made in achieving the objectives outlined to the Executive Board in November; and confirm when he anticipates being able to make a

decision on the long-term future of the Council's Integrated Care System membership?

Councillor Sam Webster replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor. Can I thank Councillor Rule for his question. As I stated in the report to the Executive Board we remain fully committed to the integration of health and social care services where this is beneficial to Nottingham residents. Whilst Council officers and elected members have not been participating in formal meetings of the Integrated Care System, formally known as the STP, since the suspension we have continued to ensure collaborative working at operational level in line with our statutory duties.

We have had extensive dialogue with every local NHS organisation at Chief Executive level in order to work through options for progress. The City represents approximately one third of the population of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System area and has some of the more deprived communities with greater levels of health inequality. Our suspension has allowed us to further highlight that we want to ensure that the needs of Nottingham City residents are met as a priority. We also want to see a greater level of democratic involvement and oversight in the Integrated Care System and in the decisions it makes. My report to Executive Board also highlighted the importance of public service delivery, creating local jobs for local people and further activity to strength community engagement and involvement. These are all significant issues for us that have not thus far been the explicit approach of the Integrated Care System, which is why we needed to suspend ourselves and force these issues to be resolved. If these cannot be resolved then it is unlikely we would want to continue as a formal member of the Integrated Care System.

I can update Council on progress as follows: The Integrated Care System Board now has agreed to include democratic representation, councillors, along with non-executives from organisations such as our local hospitals. The Integrated Care System Board is made up of statutory organisations. It is expected that key decisions will require unanimity from all statutory partners. This assures us that we can have influence on all important decisions affecting the City. The Integrated Care System partners are in the process of deciding the way in which the integrated care partnerships will be set up including the geography over which they will be organised. We have said that whatever that configuration there needs to be a strong city identity, with a clear city budget and enable all key partners in the city to work together with a focus on our population. The NHS is confirming the way in which a city identity can be achieved over the next few weeks. Our key principles around public service delivery, local jobs for local people, and strengthening community involvement have been discussed with NHS partners and there is strong alignment on these points. We want procurement and commissioning practice to include elements, such as those in our Business Charter, that can encourage or mandate certain elements to be evidenced. We also need to clarify what decisions will be made at the Integrated Care System Board, where we are able to hold influence through the unanimous requirement for decisions.

I hope Councillor Rule can see that we took the decision to suspend Nottingham City Council's membership of the Integrated Care System in the interests of our residents

in Nottingham. We have made progress in terms of negotiating with our local health partners and we believe we can achieve more resources, more influence and ensure that our local health services are delivered by well trained and highly valued public servants. Unlike the government, I believe that we in Nottingham know how to negotiate a good deal for our residents. When we have, the Labour Group will carefully consider our next steps and you can count on us, Councillor Rule, to show some leadership, unity and above all else we will prioritise the best interests of the people we serve.

Children in care, care leavers and foster carers

Councillor Gul Khan asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Early Intervention and Early Years:

Can the Portfolio Holder for Early Intervention and Early Years inform Council of additional support given to children in care, care leavers and foster carers over the festive period?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor. Can I thank Councillor Khan for his question. As a Council we have a responsibility as the corporate parent for the 615 children who are in the care of the local authority. When Frank Dobson, as the Health Secretary of the Labour Government in the 1990s, introduced the concept of corporate parenting he said that councils should do everything in their power to give these children as good a life experience as if they were our own birth children.

Christmas is a time when we buy gifts for our children. We give them special experiences and celebrate together with other members of our family. In contrast, we know that Christmas can be a difficult time for children in care as it can emphasise the great changes or losses they have had in their lives. In these circumstances it is all the more important that we do everything that we can to make Christmas special for our looked after children. All our residential staff, foster carers, social workers, business support colleagues and personal advisers work together with children, their carers, families and volunteers to ensure that they have the best Christmas possible. Over the Christmas period children in care were provided with a range of additional support and opportunities. These included toys and other gifts provided through donations from local companies, members of the public and City Council staff. We have a dedicated group of volunteers amongst the staff, led by a business support colleague in Children's Services, who co-ordinate Christmas presents. They received over 3500 gifts from Nottingham residents, Council staff and Nottingham businesses this year. Because we had so many generous donations these gifts were shared not just between children in care but also with children living in other families that we are working with. I would like to take this opportunity to offer my thanks for the generosity of businesses in Nottingham, individual citizens and Council staff and councillors for their generosity. In addition, children in care and their foster carers were also provided with tickets for the pantomime performances at both the Royal Centre and the Playhouse, thanks to generous donations from both theatres. 50 of our foster care families caught the Santa Train provided by East Midlands Trains on a December Saturday morning. They were taken on a round trip through Lincolnshire

enjoying festive treats on the train, a cinema showing of The Grinch and, of course, meeting Santa.

For young people who have recently become care leavers, 40 food hampers were provided following donations from Labour councillors and Council staff. For these young people who have recently taken up a tenancy of a flat following leaving care, it may have been that they spent Christmas or much of the festive period on their own. The food hampers were a reminder that they are not forgotten over this holiday time. We also worked closely with a group of volunteers co-ordinated by Trent Vineyard Church who volunteered to organise a Christmas meal that actually took place for care leavers on Christmas Day. This is the first year that we have been able to do this. The meal was targeted at those care leavers who would have otherwise been by themselves and it was a real success. Care leavers who attended, some of whom brought their own children, all received gifts from Santa, which had once again been donated by local people and organisations. 20 care leavers and their children attended.

So we are very grateful to everyone who has donated gifts or given up time, even on Christmas Day, to make it a special time for our Nottingham children. We will continue to ensure that we fulfil our corporate parent duty in the best way that we can in the future.

Housing Allowance

Councillor Ilyaz Aziz asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning:

Does the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning know how much is paid out to private rented landlords every year by Nottingham City Council in housing allowance and would the money not be better spent on building council houses?

Councillor Linda Woodings replied as follows:

Thank you very much Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Aziz for your question. We estimate that approximately £48 million worth of rent allowance was paid to private landlords in Nottingham in 2017/18 and this is much more proportionately than that received by Council tenants. That figure is £59 million but there are nearly double the number of Council tenant claims than those in the private sector. So if you are entitled to housing benefit to help you afford your rent it costs the taxpayer more in housing benefit payments if you rent a home from a private landlord than if you rent a home from the Council. These figures highlight the findings of Shelter's recently published report from its Commission on the Future of Social Housing. The Commission makes a very strong case that the building of more social housing is the way to tackle the housing crisis and it recommends a historic renewal of social housing and the delivery of 3.1 million social homes over a 20 year period. It demonstrates the savings to the welfare bill which could be achieved by building social homes rather than paying out housing benefit to private sector landlords. In areas of average rent, under Shelter's suggested programme, providing a social home for a tenant in receipt of housing benefit would generate a net saving to the government after 30 years of £5600. It is nearly double that in areas of high cost

housing. In total, savings on housing benefit alone would reach £60 billion within 30 years.

As well as the savings in housing benefit, the capital investment in millions of social homes would boost the economy, create public assets and provide better value for money for the taxpayer. As one of the commissioners, the former Conservative Treasury Minister Lord Jim O'Neill, said we must make a profound and generational shift away from a belief that housing benefits alone can solve this problem and back towards investment in bricks and mortar and a view that affordable housing is a national asset like other infrastructure. Perhaps most of all, building social homes as an alternative to private renting provides a secure, stable, well-managed home in which families can settle and bring up their children without the fear of a short term tenancy coming to an end. Disruption to schooling and a lack of a secure place you can call home can have a destabilising effect on children. The report of the Shelter Commission is very welcome, but actually Nottingham was thinking exactly the same thing more than 3 years ago. In 2015 Nottingham City Homes and Nottingham City Council examined the potential for reducing benefits expenditure in the City by building new homes that could be made available at lower rents than the private rented sector was offering. At that time private rented housing benefit expenditure in Nottingham had risen from £22.5 million in 2009/10 to £41.6 million in 2013/14 and as I have already said that is now estimated to be in the region of £48 million a year. The increased expenditure from the public purse was a source of concern. The savings to the housing benefit bill would be achieved through having rent levels lower than current levels of local housing allowance - that's the rates paid to private rented tenants. A 5 year pilot was proposed which would involve an overall investment of £11 million to build 100 new 3 bedroom homes, financed over a 40 year period through the Council's prudential borrowing facility. Renting out those properties at 90% of Nottingham's local housing allowance would have brought an overall saving of approximately £2.5 million. The idea was floated with opposition politicians at a national level but with no change to the government from the general election in 2015 unfortunately it went no further.

Colleagues, it is refreshing to know that the current Conservative Government seems to be changing its mind about social housing. You will recall that Nick Clegg reported that during the Coalition Government it was either George Osborne or David Cameron who said that social housing simply created Labour voters. However Teresa May has recently told the National Housing Federation that people who live in council houses should be made to feel proud of their homes and committed a further £2 billion to build new homes in England to remove, what she called, the stigma of social housing. How staggeringly out of touch. It is quite clear that Teresa May has never been to a council estate. Far from being a stigma we know that people are proud to live in their council houses and on their council estates. Our waiting list and our case work shows that this is the most desirable option for those who want a stable home that they can feel secure in knowing that they can stay there rather than the possibility of being evicted on a whim by a private landlord with just 2 months notice.

Nottingham City Council remains committed to the principle of decent, safe, secure and affordable social housing. We are currently purchasing a number of homes which were sold through the Right to Buy scheme and might otherwise end up in the private rented sector and these are rented out as social housing. This will save

money in housing benefit but will also leave the Council with an asset for households to benefit from in the future. We have also recently seen the Government completely shift its policy on council housing by lifting the borrowing cap on Housing Revenue Accounts, something that I can assure you we intend to take full advantage of in Nottingham by building more of the social homes we need.

Homelessness

Councillor Cheryl Barnard asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Community Protection:

Can the Portfolio Holder for Community Protection inform the Council of what support is being offered to rough sleepers in Nottingham and what action is being taken to prevent people being put at risk of being homeless?

Councillor Toby Neal replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Barnard for the question. The issues of rough sleeping and homelessness are both a national and a local issue with numbers having increased over the last 5 years. Never has it been more important to address these complex issues, particularly at this time of year when the temperatures are dropping. So I want to give you some examples of the extensive activity that we are currently undertaking. We continually engage with those who rough sleep on our streets. Our Community Protection Officers and partners from Framework, with their embedded social workers and health care workers continue to promote our local support services at every opportunity they get with vulnerable individuals and offer same day accommodation. I would add that while the Council has adopted a 'no second night out' policy for those who sleep rough, I have instructed our frontline services to ensure that nobody spends a single night out on our streets – effectively a 'no first night out' policy. To enhance our on-street responses we have recently appointed a Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator to have operational oversight of these complex issues and already this post is delivering significant results and guiding people off the streets. The City has a large network of winter shelters co-ordinated by our partners, such as Emmanuel House, providing bed space and shelter for all those that want it. In addition, we have activated our Sit Up Service in collaboration with the Red Cross, providing additional temporary shelter and support for eight households every night. We also recently secured funding of around £650,000 for a rapid rehousing pathway for rough sleepers. This funding will be spent developing a 24 hour sit up service throughout the year. It will employ navigators to help rough sleepers access accommodation and it will fund support workers to assist resettlement and access accommodation to the private rented sector. However despite these successes we still face challenges with those that sleep rough. There are a very small number of rough sleepers who have refused our offer of accommodation or who have left supported accommodation that we have given to them. These are individuals with very complex needs and we need to help further, and with the additional funding we hope to be able to address this issue. As part of the Nottingham Homelessness Prevention Strategy, our Community Protection Services are undertaking a significant amount of homelessness prevention activity. Our Safer Housing and Selective Licensing Teams work with landlords and tenants to try and solve tenancy problems and enable people to stay in their properties. Our

housing licensing schemes are playing a significant part in this by bringing all private rented sector properties across the City up to a minimum standard and providing support for tenants facing illegal Section 21 evictions. We also ensure that evictions from social tenancies are prevented wherever possible and we will try to mediate between household members to stop exclusion from the family home leading to homelessness. We have also increased available housing stock purchasing a significant number of houses so that those that are evicted or those who have nowhere to go, have somewhere to go. And finally we are currently working with agencies such as the prison service, probation and health services to stop people being discharged from institutional settings with nowhere to go.

Councillors will recall we adopted the new Homelessness Prevention Strategy for the City at the Full Council meeting in November last year. This is a 5 year plan aimed at reducing homelessness through a range of interventions delivered in partnership with a range of agencies across the City. Nottingham has a very good record on homelessness prevention and it is only in recent times that we have struggled to tackle homelessness and had to resort to the use of bed and breakfast accommodation on a temporary basis. Through some magnificent work by officers and councillors we have managed to eliminate the use of bed and breakfast but the job is not done and the pressures are still there. We need to go back to being a leading authority in homelessness prevention, and the new Strategy, which takes full account of the new powers within the Homelessness Reduction Act, will help us do this. The Strategy has four priority areas, which are addressing the causes of homelessness; homelessness prevention; the relief of homelessness; and tackling rough sleeping. Specifically in terms of prevention, the Strategy focuses on some areas where we can intervene early on to stop people becoming homeless, for example people having to leave private rented tenancies which is one of the biggest causes of homelessness in the City. We will work with landlords and tenants to try and solve the tenancy problems and enable people to stay. We will also ensure that evictions from either the private rented sector or social tenancies are prevented wherever possible and we will try to mediate between household members. The work with the agencies is a significant part of it. The Strategy is very ambitious and requires resources and we are making the best use of the grant we receive from central government and we are exploiting any bidding opportunities to enable us to boost the funding we have available to assist people. We will always need temporary accommodation so the Council and Nottingham City Homes are investing resources in this. The Strategy and objectives will only be delivered by working in partnership with a range of agencies and stakeholders and this is what the Homelessness Charter is about, which Councillor Barnard has played a significant role in helping to pull together so that all sectors can make a pledge to show how they will help reduce homelessness. As the Strategy states, the Council and its partners believe that preventing and tackling homelessness are everyone's business in Nottingham and everyone has a right to a home.

Pension Credit

Councillor Mike Edwards asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder or Finance, Resources and Commercial Services:

Is the Deputy Leader aware that the Government sneaked out changes to pension credit last week which will result in mixed couples losing more than £7000?

Councillor Graham Chapman replied as follows:

Thank you for the question Councillor. Yes, I am very aware. These changes were slipped out last Monday night by the Department for Work and Pensions in the middle of the Brexit debates on Monday and Tuesday. They mean that from 15 May new pensioners whose partners are younger than the state retirement age of 65 can no longer claim means tested top-up called Pension Credit. Instead they will be forced to claim much less generous Universal Credit alongside their younger partners. The couple rate of Universal Credit is £114.81 per week. Compare this with the £255.25 for a couple receiving Pension Credit. This amounts to a loss over a year of £7320. Currently people who reach retirement age and are eligible can claim Pension Credit regardless of the age of their partner. In future they will have to wait until their partner reaches 65 although the state retirement age will increase to 66 in October 2020. Couples with one partner under state pension age who are already in receipt of Pension Credit are unaffected and that is very important. We don't want to panic anybody. People already receiving it will not be affected, but they will move to the new system and, this is very important, they will move to the new system if their circumstances change such as change of address, or even if the pensioner's partner goes abroad for longer than a month. The average age gap for mixed age couples is 2.6 years meaning that the cash loss incurred before the younger partner becomes old enough to claim Pension Credit could be as much as £19,000. So there will be couples in Nottingham who surreptitiously have had £19,000 taken away from their income, and don't think these are well off couples. These are couples that are not well off by definition. The government will have taken up to £19,000 over two and half years from these people. I would like to contrast this with another change that was slipped out this month. It is to do with tax havens. The announcement in 2016 by the Cameron Government promised the publication of a register of investors in tax havens by 2020. This was to expose firms avoiding tax and in some cases evading tax, but mainly avoiding. This month we learn that the deadline has been slipped to 2023. This means it will be harder to clamp down on firms who are avoiding tax. So in the same month as we are taking up to £19,000 away from pensioners, badly off pensioners, we let off the hook firms who are avoiding tax, evading tax to the tune of millions and millions and millions. Do not underestimate how much this happens. I remember one developer in Nottingham coming to me saying, well everybody puts their money into tax havens. I thought, well not everybody on the Broxtowe Estate does that. Do not underestimate how pervasive this is and how they have been let off the hook at the same time as you are pinching pennies off the poorest pensioners.

67 DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES

The Leader of the Council submitted a report detailing decisions taken under procedures which include exemption from Overview and Scrutiny Call In Procedure Rules and Special Urgency Access to Information Rules, as set out on pages 31 – 32 of the agenda.

RESOLVED to note

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

| Decision Reference Number | Date of Decision | Subject | Value of Decision | Reasons for Urgency |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| 3349 | 18 December 2018 | Financing Arrangements | Exempt | There was urgency for funding to be transferred to a company wholly owned by the organisation. If the financial transfer had not been undertaken the company would have incurred costs. |
| 3350 | 17 December 2018 | Purchase of Ex Right to Buy Flat | Exempt | The Council was buying from mortgagees in possession and time was of the essence. |

(2) the Key Decision taken under special urgency procedures:

| Decision Reference Number | Date of Decision | Subject | Value of Decision | Reason for Special Urgency |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 3349 | 18 December 2018 | Financing Arrangements | Exempt | There was urgency for funding to be transferred to a company wholly owned by the organisation. If the financial transfer had not been undertaken the company would have incurred costs. |

Councillors Armstrong, Rule and Steel requested that their vote against the recommendations be recorded.

68 MOTION

Moved by Councillor Graham Chapman, seconded by Councillor Steve Battlemuch:

This Council welcomes the Labour Party's proposal for a National Transformation Fund as a means of improving skills and productivity in Nottingham, and as a means of helping to redress the severe imbalance between the UK's regional economies.

RESOLVED to carry the motion.

69 MOTION

Moved by Councillor Sally Longford, seconded by Councillor Mike Edwards:

This Council notes that Nottingham met its Energy Strategy target early (a 26% reduction of carbon dioxide emissions against 2005 by 2020) with reductions of emissions by 39% since 2005, equivalent to 43% per person. Nottingham is also on track to meet its 2020 target of 20% of energy generation from low carbon sources, due to a combination of a reduction in the City's energy demand and its renewable energy projects programme. This Council has led the way to a more sustainable and green City by:

- Signing the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in 2000 with a follow up in 2011
- £15 million investment in one of the UK's largest electric bus fleets
- Investment in biogas and retrofitted buses
- Developing and expanding the electric tram network
- Improving cycling facilities, including bike hubs and a cycle hire scheme
- Significant investment in cycle corridors
- Introduction of the Workplace Parking Levy – tackling congestion and containing traffic growth, while generating funds to invest in public transport
- Installing solar panels on 4500 domestic properties across the city
- Working on innovative projects including our solar vehicle to grid project
- Retrofitting 400 homes with energy efficient measures through the REMOURBAN and Green HousING Project.

In the light of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2018 Special Report on "Global Warming of 1.5°C" this Council heeds the call for urgent action within the next 12 years to avoid a climate crisis. Taking immediate action will help to protect Nottingham people from the consequences of irreversible climate change that would result in flooding, drought, heatwaves and other extreme weather events. This will also make a contribution to the international effort to cut carbon emissions to mitigate climate change, reducing the severity of rising sea levels, hazards, food security and impacts on global ecosystems.

This Council therefore resolves to lead the way nationally and play its part in the global effort against climate change by becoming a carbon neutral city by 2028.

RESOLVED to carry the motion.

The Meeting concluded at 4.50 pm

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WQ1

WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2019

Could the Portfolio Holder provide a breakdown of the current lending extended by the City Council to each of its wholly and majority owned companies and provide an estimation of when this lending will be paid back in full?

The response to WQ1 is exempt from publication under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because releasing it would prejudice the Council's commercial interests.

WQ2

WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR RULE OF THE LEADER AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2019

Following the report presented to Executive Board in December can the Leader of Council set out the key milestones for the development of the Broadmarsh Centre and Car Park and provide an estimated timeframe of when these milestones will be completed?

The contract to redevelop the Intu Broadmarsh Centre has now been let. Contractors will be active on site in the next few weeks and the main development work will get going in May. The works are due to be completed by the Autumn of 2021.

The Broadmarsh Car Park development contract is expected to be awarded in February. The construction of the new car park and bus station are targeted for completion and being open to the public by the end of 2020. The new library which will require fitting out following completion of the main building work is then expected to be open in the latter part of 2021.

Once completed, these significant developments will deliver major regeneration and economic uplift in the Southern part of the city. They will act as the centrepiece of the Broadmarsh transformation programme and, together with the ongoing construction of the new Nottingham College City Hub and redevelopment of the Castle, enhance Nottingham's place as the economic engine for the East Midlands region.

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