



You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of **CITY COUNCIL**  
at Council Chamber at the Council House on Monday 21 January 2019 at 2.00 pm to  
transact the following business

| <b><u>AGENDA</u></b>   | <b><u>Pages</u></b> |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>   |                     |
| <b>2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</b>   |                     |
| <b>3 QUESTIONS FROM CITIZENS</b>   | To follow           |
| <b>4 PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS ON BEHALF OF CITIZENS</b>  | Verbal              |
| <b>5 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2018</b>  | 5 – 30              |
| <b>6 TO RECEIVE OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND/OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>  | Verbal              |
| <b>7 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS - TO THE CITY COUNCIL'S LEAD COUNCILLOR ON THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>  | To follow           |
| <b>8 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS - TO A MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE BOARD, THE CHAIR OF A COMMITTEE AND THE CHAIR OF ANY OTHER CITY COUNCIL BODY</b>  | To follow           |
| <b>9 DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES</b><br>Report of the Leader of the Council   | 31 – 34             |
| <b>10 MOTION</b><br>Motion in the name of Councillor Graham Chapman:<br><br>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.                                     |                     |
| <b>11 MOTION</b><br>Motion in the name of Councillor Sally Longford:<br><br>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.

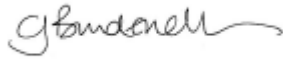
In the light of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2018 Special Report on "Global Warming of 1.5°C" this Council heeds the call for urgent action within the next 12 years to avoid a climate crisis. Taking immediate action will help to protect Nottingham people from the consequences of irreversible 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.

***Please note that questions to Council are received after the agenda has been published. Questions will be published as a supplementary agenda by 5pm on Friday 18 January 2019.***

IF YOU NEED ANY ADVICE ON DECLARING AN INTEREST IN ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA, PLEASE CONTACT THE GOVERNANCE OFFICER SHOWN ABOVE, IF POSSIBLE BEFORE THE DAY OF THE MEETING

CITIZENS ARE ADVISED THAT THIS MEETING MAY BE RECORDED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. ANY RECORDING OR REPORTING ON THIS MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S POLICY ON RECORDING AND REPORTING ON PUBLIC MEETINGS, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.NOTTINGHAMCITY.GOV.UK](http://WWW.NOTTINGHAMCITY.GOV.UK). INDIVIDUALS INTENDING TO RECORD THE MEETING ARE ASKED TO NOTIFY THE GOVERNANCE OFFICER SHOWN ABOVE IN ADVANCE.

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

Dated  
Corporate Director for Strategy and Resources  
**To: All Councillors of Nottingham City Council**

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

held at the Council Chamber - at the Council House

on 12 November 2018 from 2.00 pm - 5.01 pm

**ATTENDANCES:**

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Councillor Liaqat Ali (Lord Mayor)</li> </ul>   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Councillor Cat Arnold</li> <li>✓ Councillor Jim Armstrong</li> <li>✓ Councillor Leslie Ayoola</li> <li>✓ Councillor Ilyas Aziz</li> <li>✓ Councillor Cheryl Barnard</li> <li>✓ Councillor Steve Battlemuch</li> <li>✓ Councillor Merlita Bryan</li> <li>    Councillor Eunice Campbell-Clark</li> <li>✓ Councillor Graham Chapman</li> <li>✓ Councillor Azad Choudhry</li> <li>✓ Councillor Jon Collins</li> <li>✓ Councillor Josh Cook</li> <li>✓ Councillor Michael Edwards</li> <li>✓ Councillor Chris Gibson</li> <li>✓ Councillor Brian Grocock</li> <li>✓ Councillor John Hartshorne</li> <li>✓ Councillor Rosemary Healy</li> <li>    Councillor Nicola Heaton</li> <li>    Councillor Mohammed Ibrahim</li> <li>✓ Councillor Patience Uloma Ifediora</li> <li>    Councillor Corall Jenkins</li> <li>✓ Councillor Glyn Jenkins</li> <li>    Councillor Sue Johnson</li> <li>✓ Councillor Carole-Ann Jones</li> <li>✓ Councillor Gul Nawaz Khan</li> <li>✓ Councillor Neghat Khan</li> <li>✓ Councillor Ginny Klein</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Councillor Dave Liversidge</li> <li>✓ Councillor Sally Longford</li> <li>    Councillor Carole McCulloch</li> <li>    Councillor Nick McDonald</li> <li>✓ Councillor David Mellen</li> <li>✓ Councillor Jackie Morris</li> <li>✓ Councillor Toby Neal</li> <li>✓ Councillor Brian Parbutt</li> <li>✓ Councillor Anne Peach</li> <li>✓ Councillor Sarah Piper</li> <li>✓ Councillor Georgia Power</li> <li>✓ Councillor Nick Raine</li> <li>✓ Councillor Andrew Rule</li> <li>✓ Councillor Mohammed Saghir</li> <li>    Councillor David Smith</li> <li>✓ Councillor Wendy Smith</li> <li>    Councillor Chris Tansley</li> <li>✓ Councillor Dave Trimble</li> <li>✓ Councillor Jane Urquhart</li> <li>    Councillor Marcia Watson</li> <li>✓ Councillor Sam Webster</li> <li>✓ Councillor Adele Williams</li> <li>✓ Councillor Malcolm Wood</li> <li>✓ Councillor Linda Woodings</li> <li>✓ Councillor Cate Woodward</li> <li>✓ Councillor Steve Young</li> <li>✓ Councillor Roger Steel</li> </ul> |

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✓ Indicates present at meeting

**44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- Councillor Nicola Heaton – work commitments
- Councillor Mohammed Ibrahim - unwell
- Councillor Sue Johnson – unwell
- Councillor Dave Smith – personal
- Councillor Chris Tansley – personal
- Councillor Marcia Watson - personal

## **45 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None

## **46 QUESTIONS FROM CITIZENS**

### Bed and Breakfast Accommodation

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

In January the Council passed a motion to ensure ‘that no family is placed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation by the end of 2018’. What action has been taken to ensure this is achieved, and what still remains to be done? In particular can the Council explain what provisions are in place for the families displaced from Bed and Breakfast accommodation? Does the Council believe it is still on target to eliminate Bed and Breakfast accommodation for families by the end of the year?

Councillor Woodings replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to thank this citizen for their question. It is correct that in January 2018, this Council passed a motion promising, along with other commitments, to ensure sufficient provision of temporary accommodation so that no family is placed in bed and breakfast accommodation by the end of 2018. We did this because our city, along with the rest of the country, is facing an unprecedented crisis in housing caused by a broken housing market, 8 years of austerity, and changes to welfare. I can report that we are making steady progress against our targets to achieve this. In relation to action taken over the last twelve months, the City Council has introduced the following measures:

- A new supply of alternative temporary accommodation (90 units) is being brought in by the end of December and that includes 50 properties which are being bought by Nottingham City Homes specifically as temporary accommodation.
- Additional staffing and resources in place to support people to avoid being made homeless or to facilitate access to new tenancies in the private rented sector.

I am pleased to report that over 250 new tenancies have been created in the last 12 months. In order to prevent unnecessary eviction from social housing, Nottingham City Homes has put in place an effective mechanism to identify and prevent eviction of families at risk. We have made changes to the way we allocate housing to allow people a fair chance of accessing the limited supply of social housing before reaching homelessness. We have made widespread contact with empty homeowners and offer to purchase properties to bring them back into use and we estimate there are approximately 750 empty properties in the city. The introduction of a private sector leasing scheme whereby Nottingham City Homes will lease properties from landlords for a fixed period of time and take on the property management for use as temporary accommodation is another scheme in train and the introduction programme of home visiting and promotion of the right messages to ensure people know they can remain with extended family whilst the City Council helps them to find more settled accommodation. This is all being driven in a systematic way by a cross Council task

group with a targeted action plan which meets every week to drive progress under clear corporate leadership and political scrutiny.

So what remains to be done? The City Council is continuing to implement our targeted plan to increase the supply of temporary accommodation and to prevent demand and there will be a significant expansion of the private sector leasing scheme to meet demand. More generally, we remain committed to our ambitious programme of affordable housing development which will help to provide accommodation at a cost and standard that provides our residents with a decent home. We gave a manifesto commitment into 2015 to build 2,500 houses that Nottingham people could afford to rent or buy and we have made significant progress with that promise. We are currently competing for a number of different government funds to support our activity, including rapid rehousing pathway money, private rent sector access funds and the Move On Fund. The Council is working hard to maximise all available opportunities to plug the huge gap that remains from previous Government funding cuts, although it is frustrating that funding is so piecemeal.

In relation to what provisions are in place for the families displaced from bed and breakfast accommodation, I can report that families are moved from B&B into alternative temporary accommodation as soon as possible into either specialist, family only supported accommodation, and dispersed Nottingham City Homes owned housing or private sector housing. City Council officers continue to work with each household to find them more permanent housing throughout.

And are we on target to eliminate B&B use for families by the end of the year? So far yes but this is not without risks. The actions put in place over the last 10 months have attempted to mitigate, in as many ways as possible, the less controllable elements that can lead to homelessness. Our targeted action plan is monitored daily and reviewed weekly. So far, all targets to introduce new supply to replace the use of B&B accommodation have been met and we have contingency plans in place. However, there still remains a high level of demand from households seeking support who are at risk of homelessness and we continue to work to reduce this demand but this is always challenging given the broken housing market and ongoing welfare reform.

Thank you Lord Mayor.

### Climate Change

FL asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Energy and Environment:

What is the Council doing to actively combat climate change, given the recent report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change? I am aware of some initiatives around the City but what does the Council intend to do to get citizens more involved and indeed more responsible for our carbon footprints?

Councillor Longford replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord Mayor and thank you to the citizen who asked this question. I share the citizen's concern about climate change and the recent report from the inter-

governmental panel. Some of you are aware that I used to teach A-Level Geography and spent a significant amount of time in the classroom taking about the urgency of taking steps to combat climate change and the potential impact of inaction. I am an enthusiastic advocate for the work the City Council is doing to reduce emissions and to adapt to the future impacts of climate change. This work takes place at national, regional and local scales. The Council is working to reduce the overall carbon footprint of the city and facilitating a more sustainable lifestyle for its citizens. There are many ways local people can get involved. The Council has a wide range of policies and strategies in place which make reference to the need to mitigate climate change as best we can locally, and to make the city better able to cope with the effects. For example, we have a community climate change strategy, a climate change adaptation plan, the local plan includes policies on sustainable design and construction, energy and heat networks and water. In the strategic flood risk assessment of 2017, there is an addendum for the Greater Nottingham Area, and we are a UK100 signatory committing us to 100% clean energy by 2050. This year, Nottingham was recognised as the leading city in the UK by the Huawei index for energy projects and programmes.

The City Council works with a variety of organisation on innovative projects including local universities, the local enterprise partnership, core cities, APSE and Central Government. We met our energy strategy target to reduce CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 26% from the 2005 baseline early and are currently down by 39%. The city is on track to meet our 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 our renewable energy projects delivery programme. We have rolled out photovoltaic solar panels across our own estate and to over 4,300 Nottingham City Homes: a policy which was driven by the commitment of my predecessor, Councillor Alan Clarke, who as you have heard was recently recognised for his lifetime achievement by the National Solar Industry. A wide variety of energy efficiency projects have been implemented across the city under the Salix Finance scheme including changes to lighting and Wollaton Hall and leisure centres. Many homes in Clifton, Lenton Abbey and Bulwell have benefitted from solid wall insulation, allowing people to save money on heating and energy and now we are taking that further with the award winning deep retrofitting of hard to heat homes under the EU funded REMOURBAN project. We were a UK pioneer in the field of our district heating network which still delivers low carbon heat to 5,000 domestic and 130 commercial customers. We provide advice and support to local businesses through audits, inspections and certification of their energy systems as well as the EU funded Energy Efficiency Grants. As our fleet converts 20% of our vehicles to electric, we are involved in exciting new projects like the EU funded vehicle to grid solar powered battery storage system which will enable us to charge our vehicles and maximise efficiency of the grid which I believe is a real game changer. We have a sustainable public transport system which is the envy of other cities across the country with our tram network and one of the largest electric bus fleets with NCT switching to biogas buses. We are continuing to invest in our cycling network, encouraging people to use the safe routes we have created and increasing the number of people using our cycling super highways. Our Go Ultra Low programme is rolling out the electric vehicle charging points network across the D2 N2 area powered by renewable energy. We are also supporting local businesses by providing grants for charge points, cycle lockers and showers. Taxi drivers are being supported to switch to cleaner vehicles and our taxi strategy requires that they are all ultra-low emissions vehicles by 2025.



As the Portfolio Holder for flooding, I meet regularly with officers who are working on many different projects to help the impact of flooding on local people's homes. These include encouraging the use of sustainable drainage in new developments, providing new solutions to store large quantities of water during storm events, protecting individual properties by blocking access to water as well as developing soft engineering schemes which will reduce the velocity of flood water, increase storage in the channel, and provide new attractive areas for people to enjoy. We also have our own Robin Hood Energy which now supplies electricity from 100% renewable sources and gives our citizens a sustainable alternative to the big six. We have recently been involved in the refill programmes which aims to reduce single use plastic bottles and is a simple way for people not only to save money but to reduce their daily impact on the environment.

Our school catering service provides good quality meals with schools involved in the food for life programme which sets high standards for sustainability. Green Fields Community School in the Meadows has a gold award which means that at least half the food comes from local sources and 30% organic. The children are actively involved in growing their own food, hopefully the next generation of keen kitchen gardeners growing and eating their own fresh healthy fruit and veg.

We are also involved in the One Nottingham Green Theme partnership which is currently working towards a plan to create a sustainable city for us all by 2050. I know there are a great many imaginative ideas relating to different aspects of our lives, such as food, leisure and transport emerging from the participants. We are always keen to promote greater understanding of how people can live in a more sustainable way and, for example, next year we hope to work with Sustrans to help reduce air pollution around schools by developing better understanding among children and parents of the impacts of their travel choices in the local environment. If we can get a few more children walking and cycling to school, that will benefit us all. Hopefully this gives a snapshot of some of the ways the city is helping citizens and people commuting to or visiting the city to reduce their impact on a day to day basis. We know many people are becoming more aware of the environmental impacts of their actions and we hope that this understanding will help them make wise choices. The Council will aim to facilitate these changes wherever it can. If citizens have ideas about further ways we can reduce our carbon footprint, I am always glad to hear from them.

Thank you.

#### Concessionary Travel for Mobility Card Holders

AD asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Transport and HR:

Until September 2018, Nottingham City Council ("the Council") provided a travel concessionary scheme superior to the national concessionary scheme. Disabled people who are Mobility Card holders could travel free 24/7 on both buses and trams. The Council has funded this local benefit with no additional support from central government.

As part of its budget savings (cuts) of £27million, the Council has ended the superior aspects of its scheme to save £100,000. From 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018, Mobility Card holders have to pay bus or tram fares if they travel before 9:30am or after 11pm. The time restriction is having a major impact on disabled people who need to travel to work, hospital appointments, volunteering commitments, day centres and to educational venues. Many disabled people in work are on low/ minimum wages.

How can the Council justify its decision?

JB asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Transport and HR:

The Council has established a mitigation scheme to offset the cut to travel for disabled people on benefits. This scheme cannot be found on the website. How is the Council publicising the availability of this scheme?

RB asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Transport and HR:

Until September 2018, Nottingham City Council (“the Council”) provided a travel concessionary scheme superior to the national concessionary scheme. Disabled people who are Mobility Card holders could travel free 24/7 on both buses and trams. I gather part of the rationale for doing this was to help & encourage & help people with disabilities to access work, educational opportunities and take a fuller part in community activities that require travel before 9.30am or after 11pm. The Council has to its credit funded this local benefit with no additional support from central government.

As part of its budget savings (cuts) of £27million, the Council ended the superior aspects of its scheme to save £100,000. From 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018, Mobility Card holders have to pay bus or tram fares if they travel before 9.30am or after 11pm. The time restriction is having a major impact on disabled people who need to travel to work, hospital appointments, volunteering commitments, day centres and to educational venues. Disproportionally many disabled people in work are on low/minimum wages.

Will the Council reconsider its decision?

SH asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Transport and HR:

There is serious concern regarding the Council’s consultation process in respect of their changes to funding travel for disabled citizens. The first intimation of this change for most people who use disability passes was a sign on bus stops announcing the change in the middle of August. Why were they not properly consulted? Where, and when, was any means of responding to this announcement given to this affected? What does the Council understand ‘consultation’ to mean when it comes to their budget proposals? How can the Council have a two-way exchange with citizens?

GT asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Transport and HR:

Regarding the restrictions of the disabled mobility concession pass: the City Council has over £200 million in useable reserves. Why can it not choose to use some of those reserves to fund the £100,000 the Council states it will save as a result of the reductions in use of the mobility card?

LS asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Transport and HR:

The Council's Equality Standards are:-

- Make sure our workforce will reflect the citizens we serve (many of those affected by the cuts to the Disabled Persons Mobility Pass work for the Council)
- Create economic growth for the benefit of all communities
- Provide inclusive and accessible services for our citizens ("we will achieve this by, for example, protecting from cuts services that support Nottingham's most vulnerable citizens")
- Lead the City in tackling discrimination and promoting equality ("Our work to achieve this will include tackling fuel poverty, building lifetime homes and by developing better opportunities for children and young people with additional needs").

How does the Council's decision to restrict free use by disabled people of their mobility pass (before 9.30am and after 11pm from 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 meet the Council's Equality Standards?

AD asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Transport and HR:

A citizen has been unable to find on the Council web-site any reference to the mitigation scheme to help disabled people in receipt of benefits with the cost of travel before 9.30am. She would like to ask the Portfolio Holder how the Council is publicising its mitigation scheme and how it intends to help disabled people who are currently struggling with the additional costs imposed on them in travelling to work, voluntary work, day centres, hospital appointments, colleges and in taking their children to school.

Councillor Liversidge replied to the above questions about concessionary travel for Mobility Card holders as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and I thank the members of the public who have put these questions. That obviously shows that there is a great deal of concern over this and I am concerned about it as well. The reason I am concerned about it is because we are having to make these awful decision because of the grant funding which has been reduced from £127million in 2013 to just £25million this year. £100million of savings have had to be made and unfortunately this is one of those savings because there is a crisis in adult social care and in children's care. This year alone, we are having to make £27million worth of savings. Whilst this is not we would want to make, we are facing very difficult decisions.

Questions 3 asks us to justify this. For a number of years, there has been a national concessionary scheme. The City Council have been offering the Robin Hood Mobility Card free 24/7 for both buses and trams. The government scheme only provides for the travel between 9:30am and 11pm, meaning we have had to fund the travel ourselves at a cost of £100,000 a year from our own budgets. Whilst this is not a cut any of us wanted to make, without adequate funding from the government, we are unable to continue to subsidise the scheme in our current financial context. Since Monday 3 September, the Council concessionary scheme has delivered in line with national statutory scheme and in line with funding received from the government to deliver this scheme.

Question 4 asked about the mitigation scheme to offset corporate travel. At a time when the changes came into effect, we advertised online via the media, a phone number and an email address individuals could contact. We made available a number of pre-loaded Robin Hood cards which could be used as a temporary measure to mitigate the impact. That phone number is 876 3990.

Question 5 asked us to reconsider our decision. As previously mentioned, we are continuously developing a scheme which will allow those who need to travel between 11pm and 9.30am to buy back the benefit at a reduced rate and we will bring forth those proposals as soon as possible. The change itself was a budget decision taken by the Council and as budget pressures continue to increase, there is no current plan to revisit the decision. However, should the government make funding available for this scheme to run 24/7, we of course will be happy to reverse it.

The next question asked how the Council consulted on changes. The Council consulted on changes for the concessionary bus fare scheme as part of their overall budget discussions from February to March. Members of the public were able to comment on new proposals online, write, call or email the Council. In addition, the Council consulted directly with the Disability Involvement Group for their input via email on 14 February. The Council has shared an equality impact assessment with the Disability Involvement Group and publicised proposed changes to the scheme with bus and tram operators in June 2018. The changes were promoted on the real time signs at bus stops to ensure users were aware. I'm sorry that the person asking the question does not feel that the Council consulted with them. We do not always get things right and I apologise for that. I will take this on board in future consultations. I would be happy, if it is helpful, to offer to meet with those who have asked the question today and discuss their concerns and ensure they are properly listened to.

Public Question 7 asks why we can't use reserves. The Council maintains reserves in line with requirements placed on us as a local authority and although we do have money in our reserves, it is not money we are able to use to cover revenue expenditure. £100,000 will incur every year so it is not sustainable to pay for this from our reserves. In fact, if you look at authorities that have been using their reserves, they are now into deficit. Northampton are one of those who started using this process and now they are skint.

Public Question 8 asks for Council Equality Standards in relation to the charges. An EIA was carried out regarding the cuts to discretionary elements of the scheme and the decision made by the full Council. The Council works in partnership with

operators and other bodies to improve access to public transport for disabled persons such as providing access at bus stops and buses, raised kerbs, lowering bus ramps, tactile paving, audio visual announcements on buses and trams etc. The infrastructure and level of public transport available is one of the best outside of London.

The final question again asks about the mitigation scheme as well as how the Council intends to help disabled people who are currently struggling with additional costs of transport. I have already explained the existing and planned mitigation schemes and we encourage anybody facing financial hardship to contact the Council on 876 3990. We will continue to work in partnership with operators and other bodies to improve access to public transport for disabled people, such as providing accessible bus stops, raised kerbs etc.

In summary, card holders and their companions will be able to travel for free in Nottingham and nationally off peak between 9.30am to 11pm Monday to Friday. We are continuing to offer the extra benefit of free tram travel and I am sorry that those raising this question and others that have lost out on this concession. This is something the Council is not happy about, however we have to make up this funding gap and we encourage anybody facing financial difficulties to contact the Council and we can discuss it with you individually.

Thank you.

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

Councillor Raine submitted a petition from residents of Staplehurst Drive, Tring Vale and Desford Close proposing that residents of those streets are issued with resident parking permits with the restrictions being Monday to Saturday 8am – 5pm, due to ongoing problems caused by Nottingham City Hospital staff parking. The petition received 73 signatures.

#### **48 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2018**

Councillor Jim Armstrong raised a point of order in reference to Standing Order 21 relating to conduct – “Councillors shall at all times during Council meetings behave with courtesy and respect towards others and do nothing which might bring the Council into disrepute or disrupt Council business”. Councillor Armstrong felt that the minutes of Council were abbreviated and therefore brought the Council into disrepute. Councillor Toby Neal raised a point of order because he felt that Councillor Armstrong’s continued raising of the same issue at successive Council meetings without taking what Councillor Neal considered to be the appropriate action to resolve his concerns brought the Council into disrepute. The Lord Mayor stated that the minutes were recorded in accordance with usual practice and suggested that if Councillor Armstrong wished to change this practice then this could be done by proposing an amendment to the Constitution.

Councillor Jim Armstrong requested a recorded vote on confirmation of the minutes but the Lord Mayor declined this request.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Councillor Jim Armstrong raised a point of order that councillors who had not been present at the meeting on 10 September 2018 had voted on the accuracy of the minutes of that meeting. The Lord Mayor confirmed that only those councillors present at a meeting could vote on confirming the accuracy of the minutes of that meeting and the vote of councillors not present at the meeting on 10 September 2018 had not been taken into account.

#### **49 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 Roger Steel

I would like to welcome Councillor Roger Steel who was elected to represent the Clifton North ward at the by-election held on 27 September 2018.

##### Centenary to mark the end of World War 1

11 November marked the centenary of the end of the First World War. This has been commemorated by people across the Country and the City in a variety of different ways. In Nottingham the Victoria Embankment was the focal point. Commemorations took place in the morning and the evening. Tributes to the Armed Forces were made through the Service of Remembrance and a minute's silence at 11 o'clock and an event in the evening 'The Battle's Over' featuring sound and lightscapes, music and poetry and a beacon that lit up the front of the war memorial.

##### Green Energy Award for Former Councillor Alan Clark

Former councillor Alan Clark was posthumously awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Solar Power Portal Awards in October in recognition of his achievements whilst serving as the Council's Portfolio Holder for Energy and Sustainability from 2011 to 2016. The Award acknowledged his leading role in making Nottingham the UK's most energy self-sufficient City including identification of solar as a key part of Nottingham's sustainable journey. The awards also announced a new category recognising public sector projects from next year, which will be named in his honour.

##### BME Housing Leaders 2018

*Inside Housing* has recently published its inaugural list of outstanding housing professionals from a black and minority ethnic background and Delroy Beverley, Nottingham City Homes' Director for Construction, Repairs and Maintenance has featured in the inaugural list. In 2015, he became the first BME person from social housing sector to be named the Institute of Directors' director of the year and, as a BME leader, works hard to inspire the next generation.

##### Former Councillor Tim Bell

Former Councillor Tim Bell passed away on 17 September 2018. He was elected to represent the Beechdale Ward on 4 May 1995 where he served as a councillor until 2003.

Councillor Graham Chapman spoke in tribute to former Councillor Tim Bell, and a minute's silence was held.

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

None.

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

Financial management

Councillor Roger Steel asked the following question of the Deputy Leader:

Does the Deputy Leader of the Council recall the Leader of the Council writing in The Guardian in 2011 that he was "damn sure that at Nottingham City Council there is absolutely no political gesturing in the very tough budget decisions" and that he has himself acknowledged that there is a need for prudence in financial management. Was the Council therefore displaying such prudence when it chose to use its apparent limited resources to fund a politically charged sign, advocating support against perceived education cuts, in Old Market Square?

Councillor Graham Chapman replied as follows:

Can I thank Councillor Steel for his question and can I welcome him and his questions back to the Council. To be frank, we have probably missed his questions more than we have him, but he's back now and so welcome.

No I can't remember what Jon said in the Guardian whenever. Life is too short for me to do that. Nevertheless, I do have to say that last year the Government's proposed national funding formula would have resulted in 98% of schools in Nottingham from April of this year losing in total £22million. I do know about that and I also know that it was going to work out at £578 per pupil and thanks to the outcry and hard work of a number of campaigns, including ones organised by the City Council working with schools to write to every Nottingham parent, the Government made some revisions to its proposals to the point where the loss was reduced to £10million. So we only lost £10million, our children, and it is £263 per pupil instead of £578. This is not money that went on "little extras", to quote the Chancellor but on teachers, on books, on learning support and support in particular for children with special education needs. Some examples from my own ward, Aspley, which is one of the more deprived: Brocklewood school, £199 per pupil lost. Ambleside, £215 lost. Rosslyn, £153 per pupil lost. Bluecoat, which services the whole city, £620. Trinity, which again services a lot of the estate, £477 and St Theresa's £159 per pupil. That is substantial.

What the first campaign did was to show that public condemnation does pay and in May this year, we in this Council discussed a motion that set out a number of ways we could work to try bring about further changes to the government's proposal, hence the sign. I think, referring to the sign in Old Market Square, he might mean the school

cuts campaign banners that were recently put up in response to the Council resolution, but I am only guessing. The Council's contribution to these banners was the princely sum of £1,000 and given the very real detriment the funding cuts will have, we were happy to help the school cuts campaign and it was not our campaign, gain a presence in the city centre. At this point, I do have to take issue with Councillor Steel's use of some of the words in his question. He talks about *perceived* education cuts, he talks about the Council's *apparent* limited resources. Now, perceived, why would you use the word perceived? I mean, you need only to go to the head teacher of some of these schools and tell them that actually they haven't really had cuts, they are just imagining them. Right, you need to tell the teacher who was in post last year who hasn't been replaced is still there really, they've just been hiding in the cupboard for a year. Right, all the books that are worn out and not replaced are really new books. You just have to use your powers of imagination. Or you go to our staff and tell that them that they are not really having to deal with cuts, reduced services, in ill-health prevention for example, are just appearances. They are figments of the imagination, they are fake cuts spread about by the Labour Council. That is probably what it is about. Indeed, it seems that this fantasia to enrapture the Tory party. We have the Treasury Secretary, Liz Truss is also at it, so is Matt Hancock. Truss makes an astonishing statement that the government is not making cuts to councils. This: despite almost every council in England, including Tory councils, teetering on the brink and complaining about swingeing reductions in their budgets. Hancock is claiming to have received absolutely no correspondence from his West Suffolk constituency on Universal Credit. Within hours, the Mirror found correspondence. It is a case of mass self-delusion so I am beginning to wonder whether you are not all on some sort of kick whereby, throughout the Tory Party, you are just deluding yourselves about the reality of things. Well, coming back to earth, I can assure him there is nothing perceived or apparent about £10million cuts to Nottingham schools or the loss of over £90million in funding from our day to day services since 2013. It is not perceived if you cannot buy new books or having to appeal to parents to supplement school spending or if you are having to increase class sizes as the result of cuts. It is very, very real. As are the cuts to council funding which has hit the poorest areas the most which means we are having to make further real time cuts across all services in a discriminatory way in which the poorer the council, the more cuts they receive and if it costs £1,000 to inform people about it and if the reaction shames a government to reduce the cuts then it is money extremely well spent.

I will finish on a very serious note about priorities for the city. Councillor Steel's priority is £1,000 spent on a sign. Ours is £10million cut to our children's education and I wonder who the average Nottingham parents will perceive as who has their priorities right. I think I have the answer.

Thank you

### Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)

Councillor Andrew Rule asked the following question of the Leader:

In light of the harrowing statements given at the IICSA Inquiry does the Leader of the Council stand by his statement that "Nottingham will apologise when it has something to apologise for" and does he acknowledge that in retrospect survivors were owed a



more empathetic acknowledgment of their ordeals that would have been more in keeping with the Council's Citizens at Heart corporate message?

Councillor Jon Collins replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and can I thank Councillor Rule for his question. Whilst such an approach has never been Council policy, personally I believe to be meaningful, public apologies need to be in response to specific service failures and not just bland, hollow words. That's why, when the Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse provided new and previously undisclosed evidence demonstrating the Council had failed to provide the highest levels of care for some of its looked after children, that apology was made. The apology was immediately published on the City Council website and reiterated by Councillor Mellen and Alison Michalska during the evidence they gave to the IICSA Inquiry and subsequently by the Chief Executive in a meeting held with a few survivors.

Can I also now take this opportunity to repeat that apology. That apology said, and I quote "we have apologised in private to individuals and have always said we would apologise publicly at a time where there was substantive evidence to show this would be appropriate and not a hollow gesture". In preparing for the IICSA inquiry into child sexual abuse, information has come to light that shows instances where the standard of care fell seriously below that which we would now demand and what children in Council care should have been able to expect. It is now clear that upon inheriting the responsibility of children's services from the County Council 20 years ago, there should have been a swifter and more robust action taken to address the issues which began to emerge about the way some children's homes were run and the impact this was having on children. Changes we made to children's residential care did not have an immediate impact in terms of improved standards but over the last decade we have seen consistently improving standards, including now much smaller family home like units. As the Leader of Nottingham City Council, I wish to state publicly that we are deeply sorry and I offer our heartfelt sympathies to survivors who should never have suffered whilst in our care. We apologise unreservedly for any failings and shortcomings which allowed such abuse to take place. Being in the care of the local authority should provide safety for children and sadly this was not always the case. Abuse of a child is an abhorrent, unforgivable crime which has a devastating impact on the lives of its victims. We hope that the independent scrutiny of the inquiry and having their voices heard as part of the process will give survivors a sense of justice. We will continue to provide any support we can and encourage anybody aware of or affected by abuse, current or historic, to come forward and to speak confidentially to us or the police. We can assure anyone who has suffered in the past or is suffering now they will be listened to, taken seriously, and appropriate action will be taken.

#### Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)

Councillor Andrew Rule asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Early Intervention and Early Years:

Will the Portfolio Holder for Early Intervention and Early Years support the establishment of a sub-committee to properly scrutinise the findings and implementation of any recommendations from the IICSA report and will he extend an

invitation to survivors and those who have advocated for them to be part of this process?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, can I thank Councillor Rule for his question. The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse has looked thoroughly into records of social care practice in the past and the present and heard evidence of survivors of abuse from both the County and from our City. They will continue their inquiry, it has not finished yet, with a focus on other areas and other strands of their remit and we do not expect their report until the summer of 2019 at the earliest. We will take the findings and recommendations of this Inquiry very seriously. We need to do everything we can to avoid children in the care of this authority being let down in the future in the way that some have been badly let down in the past. The City Council continues to be fully engaged with the Nottinghamshire child sexual abuse survivors support group. That is Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, which meets regularly with survivors meeting with officers from both authorities. As the Leader has said, Ian Curryer the Chief Executive has met with this group by invitation just last week and Catherine Underwood, the Director of Adult Services, will be taking the lead with this group from the City, taking over from Helen Jones, her predecessor who left the authority in summer who had met with this group regularly for quite some time.

We will continue, in addition, to support individual residents who choose to engage with our services on an individual basis. Not everyone wants to be part of a group discussing such a sensitive nature and we will make sure that support is given to that group and on an individual basis as is required. There are individual survivors who are already working with us to continually improve our support for young people and vulnerable adults and we always welcome this engagement and are happy to engage other survivors should they wish to be a part of this. We are not waiting for the publication of the IICSA report before addressing the issues that survivors raise with us and through the Inquiry and through the evidence in the public hearing and we will be reporting back to both Children's and Adults local safeguarding boards and the Corporate Parenting Board on this development. The Corporate Parenting Board is wholly concerned with the experience of children in the care of the local authority and when recommendations are made from the Inquiry about current practice with children, this will be the appropriate forum in which to discuss these findings and hold officers and partners to account over the implementation of any changes needed.

Following the publication of the IICSA report, we will consider if there are further findings and actions required that we have not already addressed. We have already committed to report back to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

#### Local authority housing cap

Councillor Andrew Rule asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning:

Will the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning join with me in welcoming the Prime Minister's announcement last month and the Chancellor's Budget confirmation that the local authority housing cap is to be scrapped which will provide the City Council with access to additional finance to build new homes within City?

Councillor Linda Woodings replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor. Yes, thank you Councillor Rule, we do welcome the Government's scrapping of the Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap because this will give the Council the opportunity to access additional funding to deliver more new, high quality social housing in the City and the reason we welcome it is because it has been Labour's policy since it was introduced and it comes after years of campaigning from Labour Councils, housing charities and pressure groups and even the Conservative Chair of the Local Government Association, the government have finally listened. Since 2010 this Tory treasury imposed cap has been the main blocker to building desperately needed council housing and, by the way, the cap hasn't increased since its introduction despite inflation. It won't solve our country's housing crisis, a crisis made and prolonged by this government, unless local authorities are given the freedom to build genuinely affordable social housing. But whilst we celebrate this Labour win, it is regretful that the Prime Minister did not announce a single penny of funding to build council housing, only the ability to prudently borrow our own money against our assets to finance the building of homes. All decisions on extending the current HRA new build programme will be made on a strategic basis in line with the Council's priorities and in partnership with Nottingham City Homes subject to financial viability and in line with the Prudential Code. Nottingham City Council has embarked on the biggest new council housing programme in a generation and we have recently seen our 500<sup>th</sup> resident move in to new build homes developed through this programme. Through this investment, we have delivered real quality transformation of our estates to create high quality, energy efficient homes for Nottingham people in attractive neighbourhoods where people want to live and raising the borrowing cap will allow us to do this. Part of the funds for our new build programme also comes from the right to buy replacements funds we get from the sale of council homes through the right to buy programme. Unfortunately, there are still pointless restrictions on reinvesting income from right to buy sales on building new homes, constraining their use and they do not allow councils to replace homes on a 1-1 basis like the government promised. The government is also currently consulting on relaxing or changing these rules and we would welcome a similar speedy decision on this matter in order to remove the barriers currently in place so that the Council can invest to replace a large number of homes sold under right to buy each year. Alone this won't solve the housing crisis. Without reforms to right to buy, significant grant funding, better security of tenure in the private rented sector and an end to damaging welfare changes on the most vulnerable, we risk not seeing any real change in the number of families unable to find or afford a place to call home. Nottingham Labour believes that everyone deserves a safe, secure, decent home. We are pleased with this latest adoption of Labour policy. If Councillor Rule can persuade his party at national level, we have many more practical policies on housing that he and his party are welcome to adopt including abolishing the bedroom tax, minimum three year tenancies for private rented residents, new legal minimum standards to ensure properties are fit for human habitation, better consumer rights for tenants and end to land banking by property developers and many, many others and I am happy to provide him with a list.

#### Fire at the Cattle Market

Councillor Michael Edwards asked the following question of the Leader:

Will the Leader join me in thanking council staff and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service for the way in which they responded to the incidents at the Cattle Market on the 4<sup>th</sup> November?

Councillor Jon Collins replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, can I thank Councillor Edwards for his question. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Fire and Rescue Service for their bravery and professionalism in dealing with this particular incident. It was shocking to see the images of the fire at the Cattle Market on Sunday evening last and without the efforts of the Fire Service, the impacts would have been much worse. Although 4 units were destroyed, 10 – 15 industrial units were saved and people are going to be employed today, and businesses will survive, due to the efforts of fire fighters working in very challenging circumstances. The Fire Service, I understand, was alerted to the fire at around 5.30 in the afternoon last Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, and brought in about 100 firefighters from Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire to tackle it. Using a high volume pump, 3 aerial ladders and a specialist team which forced entry into buildings, and a command unit, the fire was brought under control by 11:15 PM. The Fire Service work with partner agencies including Nottinghamshire Police, Nottingham City Council, the East Midlands Ambulance Service, City Council colleagues from highways, communications, building control, emergency planning, environmental health, property, the Growth hub, Eastcroft Depot and Nottingham On Call who all responded to the call and I would like to take the opportunity too to thank them for all their hard work and dedication. The Fire Service left the scene at 1 o'clock on Monday 5 November but the recovery efforts continue. Once the immediate situation has been dealt with, the Council contacted each of the businesses affected to understand how we could support them to get up and running as soon as possible. The Council made an offer to businesses to take up vacant units at Victoria Market in the important run up to Christmas and the Council's property and growth hub teams are working with affected owners to see what other support can be provided.

#### Domestic violence

Councillor Linda Woodings asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Community Protection:

Could the Portfolio Holder for Community Protection update Council on its commitment to tackling domestic violence and supporting survivors? What progress has been made on the Council's partnership with the White Ribbon campaign?

Councillor Toby Neal replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you to Councillor Woodings for your question. When it comes to the issue of protecting women, it's making sure women are allowed to make choices about their own lives and to live the lives that they think are important. Performance of domestic violence offending is managed by the Crime and Drugs Partnership Board which the Leader of the Council chairs. This ensures that we maintain a shared understanding of issues facing the agenda in the City and our approach is coordinated across all agencies. But domestic violence remains all too

common in the City: 3100 offences being committed last year. And whilst men can be victims of domestic violence and abuse, and women can be perpetrators, the large majority of these crimes are perpetrated by men against women and this understanding is what informs our approach. Since 2012 we have supported the White Ribbon campaign which was known as the 'Man Enough' campaign back in those days. It invites men to pledge never to commit, condone, or remain silent about domestic violence. We have supported this campaign as it sits squarely within the agenda that we follow within the CDP, our understanding of the issues within the City and the commitments that we have made in previous and current Council Plans. There is now an opportunity to become an accredited White Ribbon City. Seeking this status will publicly and clearly announce our intention to stand up to domestic violence and build on the legacy of many years successful work on this agenda. I've strongly supported this agenda and have been ably supported by Councillor Woodings in a lot of the work that's been done and the establishment of the White Ribbon City Working Group was a key element of that. So the working group has developed key social media messages, held several well attended events for citizens and key influencers and has completed a draft application to secure accreditation. Early in the New Year I will bring to Full Council the draft proposals for endorsement by the Council so that we can apply and then hopefully report, a little shortly afterwards, that we have been successful. Our objectives are to become a fully accredited White Ribbon City.

#### Refill campaign

Councillor Anne Peach asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Energy and Environment:

Would the Portfolio Holder for Energy and Environment share my enthusiasm for the launch of the Refill campaign in Nottingham, which will enable members of the public to fill up water bottles for free across the City? What other ways is the Council leading on the green agenda?

Councillor Sally Longford replied as follows:

Thank you, and thank you Councillor Peach for your timely question. I was delighted to be involved in the launch of the new refill scheme in the City recently. Thanks to Blue Planet Two I believe more people are aware of the need to reduce our use of plastic in general and single use plastic in particular. Therefore this scheme, which makes it easy for individuals to re-use their bottles and refill their own bottle, rather than buying a new one, is very welcome. It is a partnership with Severn Trent Water that has helped to bring the scheme to Nottingham and I would encourage everyone to download the Refill app onto their phone so that when they're out and about they can easily identify friendly locations to refill their water bottle. Although all licensed premises are obliged to refill bottles on request, a fact that is probably not widely known, having a sticker in the window demonstrates to potential refillers that they will be welcome in the establishment and I hope will give confidence to passers by to ask for the service. Not only will this be beneficial to the environment but our citizens will not have to fork out for a new bottle when they need hydration, saving everyone money in these difficult times. I'm really pleased that one of the first cafes to sign up to the scheme in Nottingham was the Bean Culture coffee shop in our own Loxley House. It is important that the City Council takes a leadership role in valuing our

environment and cutting waste. I'm really grateful to the volunteers who went out on launch day to sign up volunteers and to the fantastic response of the business community, more than 60 of whom have signed up already. I believe this will have a very positive impact on the reputation of those businesses involved and will certainly encourage me to make more frequent use of those businesses involved.

Of course, while we're talking about tackling single-use plastic like water bottles, it's important not to forget the other plastics people use and dispose of everyday. Currently, about 3% of the waste going into our recycling bins is plastic and the majority of this is recycled. That which cannot be recycled goes into fuel cement kilns. None of the unrecyclable plastic goes to landfill. Our recycling contractor Wastecycle runs a tight ship and we are confident that their plastic goes to legitimate destinations in Western Europe for recycling. In our general waste bins, around 17% is plastic. This goes for incineration along with all our other residual waste, apart from periods of incinerator shutdown, for example during the annual maintenance period. The Government is due to launch the Resources and Waste Strategy next year and I hope that our ability to reduce the quantity of plastic waste in the system will be supported by the strategy. In the meantime, I've been working closely with the Waste Collection Team to ensure that we maximise the recycling potential in the City by tackling contamination and enabling more people to recycle at home easily. I'm glad to say that the Council is leading on many aspects of the green agenda. I recently attended a meeting of the Green Theme Partnership, part of One Nottingham, which is facilitated by the Council and is working towards an ambitious 2050 plan for the City. We are working at the leading edge of sustainable technology and using our expertise to provide advice across the region, earning the Council money and spreading positive messages about the benefits of green technology. We are well ahead of our carbon reduction target and, as I said earlier, we are on track to meet our 2020 target of 20% of energy from low carbon sources. We are the envy of many cities with regard to air quality. I would like to remind everyone that we are the only one of the five mandated cities originally by government, not to have to introduce a charging clean air zone before 2020. This is because of the continuous work over many years through the development of our sustainable transport system, with the tram, electric bus system and the development of a network of cycling routes. This would not have been possible without the Workplace Parking Levy and without stable political leadership over a long period of time. We all know that the Opposition have taken every opportunity to criticise these policies and if they had been in power you can be sure these schemes would never have come to fruition. We are not resting on our laurels however. We are pressing forward with strategies which will continue to reduce pollution in the City, making it a healthier place for everyone to live.

### Universal Credit

Councillor Steve Battlemuch asked the following question of the Deputy Leader:

Does the Deputy Leader agree with John Major when he says that Universal Credit could be the equivalent of the Poll Tax, hitting working families the hardest?

Councillor Graham Chapman replied as follows:

In part. Universal Credit for new claimants was rolled out in Nottingham on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The managed migration of existing benefit claimants to Universal

Credit is due to start in July 2019 and is expected to be completed by 2023. There's been no confirmation yet as to how the migration will be organised. Nottingham is amongst the last to be migrated and to be rolled out and, if you have to be grateful for small mercies, then this is a small mercy to be grateful for. At the same time we have been warning for years about the dangers and the inhumanity of the proposed changes. Until recently, our, and others' warnings have not only been ignored but have been disparaged. We only have to remember the mass waving of hostile order papers in the Commons by the Tory benches at the mention of Archbishop Justin Welby who had the temerity to point out the injustice of Universal Credit. It did remind me of the reception in the 1980s that the Bishop of Durham, does everybody remember the Bishop of Durham, received to his protest about the inequity of the Poll Tax, very, very similar. You're an Archbishop, and you protest about it on behalf of the poor, which is the Christian thing to do, and you get disparaged by the Tory Party. It seems to be part of the package. But lo and behold, despite all of the Tory nonchalance over the past 8 years, our Chancellor now tries to ride to the rescue of the scheme. Indeed under pressure, he's conceded what for the last 8 years most of us have known, including the charities, the National Audit Office, Institute for Fiscal Studies, Resolution Foundation – all the people who have the disadvantage of knowing what they're talking about. They have been saying that Universal Credit is both unjust and unworkable. The Chancellor seems to be, in part, agreeing so what he's done, he's thrown £1 billion worth of Elastoplast at the scheme and what we have is some attenuation. But it's not been the worthy and the good, or even the Labour Party, which is not always worthy and good but probably more so than the Tories, that has forced the damascene conversion of the Tory Party. No, give them credit, it's the Tory MPs themselves. However, it was not the morality of the case which was the driving force, it wasn't the poverty that had been wreaked or the children's lives that had been sent into chaos for lack of funding which affected our Tory colleagues. It was the politics: crude, basic politics. It was the sheer numbers of families and people involved which frightened the Chancellor and encouraged John Major to compare Universal Credit to the Poll Tax. Tory MP Johnny Mercer, worried about his majority in Plymouth stated that Universal Credit is politically; notice he said politically not morally, undeliverable in Plymouth. Please note, it wasn't "I've been down to the food bank of Moor View and seen the misery it's causing". No, it's the politics, it's the numbers and it's the concern for his seat. There are exceptions amongst the Tories. Sarah Wollaston is one and one or two others, they're mainly women, who have conceded, and one of them even conceded, and this is quite quaint this, "the lefties have a point about Universal Credit". That's what she wrote in the Times: "the lefties have a point." Well we've had a point for eight years, we lefties, and we've been telling you so. And what about the numbers that have so frightened the Conservative Party? 5.4 million families, many with two or even three, and this should frighten you, voting adults in them. 3.2 million families would have been worse off before the Chancellor, 1.7m would totally have lost their credit, even after the budget so you're still dealing with big numbers and big votes even after the budget. He hasn't done a great deal for you. And in that way it is very similar to the Poll Tax. But the similarity stops there.

The numbers are big, but not as big as the Poll Tax. Overall, the worst off people are distributed in mainly Labour areas, where the Poll Tax was more evenly distributed across Tory voting areas and therefore there was more urgency to change from the Tory point of view. Moreover, there is a difference in that the Poll Tax was asking people to pay out money they had earned as opposed to the Universal Credit which

is accepting restrictions on money they receive even if they were entitled to it. In a sense, even though it's as unjust as the Poll Tax, it is certainly less provocative and I point out that it's almost the anniversary of the day there was a protest in this Chamber and we all, a lot of us got flour thrown at us, and we're lucky it was just flour, from Poll Tax protestors and I see no Universal Credit protestors at the moment. So it is different. Nevertheless, there is political vulnerability for the Tories and in some ways it is a bit similar, although more marginal to the Poll Tax. But the real worry for a Conservative should be the number of working families involved with more propensity to vote, which is ironic because we're told that the whole purpose of Universal Credit is to incite people into work. Indeed, I believe that some of the Tories have been so ignorant, I think this is genuine, of the fact that 40% of Universal Credit claimants are in work. It has been this single factor and the shock of realising the number that are actually in work which has caused the MPs' reaction so late in the day. They believed their own propaganda. Because we've been told time and time and time again that Universal Credit is to get people into work. Well 40% of them are already in work and the Tory MPs didn't realise it. 1.7 million families in work and those translate into quite a lot of voters. Moreover, these are more evenly distributed electorally, the ones that are in work, than the ones that are not in work. And they're more likely to be in the marginals. But despite the £1 billion thrown at it by the Chancellor's measure will do little to undo the damage. In short, if I were a Tory MP in a marginal constituency, I would be very worried. If I represented somewhere like Sevenoaks sitting on a fat majority, I would carry on in my blissful, uncaring ignorance as I have over the last eight years.

There is a further point about Universal Credit which is this. We have a government that is beyond its depth and the fiasco of Universal Credit is just one facet. Others are everywhere you look. We have Dominic Raab saying that he didn't realise the Calais-Dover crossing was so important for trade when he was advocating Brexit, we have the Minister for Northern Ireland, this is beyond belief, telling us that she hadn't realised that Unionists didn't vote for Nationalist parties. She did, I'm not joking. And we have Liam Fox thinking that fixing trade deals is as easy as falling off a log. And then we have Iain Duncan Smith. And meanwhile the DWP's maladministration has wasted £2 billion. After eight years, Universal Credit is rolled out to only 10% of claimants. The cost, say the National Audit Office, is an eye watering £700 per case against a target of just £173. Benefit cuts including those imposed on transferring to Universal Credit are due to put a record 37% of children into poverty. You are spending money putting people into poverty, that's what you're doing. You're not saving money; you are squandering money making children poor. In terms of sheer incompetence, ministerial ignorance and arrogance there are distinct similarities to the Poll Tax. In both cases, you are utterly out of touch. But there's one final difference. With the Poll Tax, at least the Tories had Major and Heseltine who could come and unpick the disaster. Now, not only are the government up to their eyeballs in Brexit with no capacity to do much else, there is no one capable of unwinding the problem and instead we have got Esther McVey. Esther McVey who misleads Parliament, misleads herself by simply being unaware on numerous occasions of the impact, and only at the last minute realised that working people will also be affected by Universal Credit. You could not make it up but we should not forget and while we might wallow in the ignorance and stupidity of the party opposite, there are severe consequences for the worst off in society, including our own constituency. And we, as councillors, are going to have to pick up some of the pieces. Indeed we are already having to pick up some of the pieces in increased use of food banks from the few that



are now using Universal Credit and increased homelessness which we are going to have to prepare for, beyond the homelessness that is increasing already. Thank you very much.

## **52 REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

The Chair of the Licensing Committee presented a report seeking adoption of a new Statement of Licensing Policy, as set out on pages 25-78 of the agenda.

**RESOLVED to adopt the Statement of Licensing Policy as set out in appendix 1 to the report with effect from 7 January 2019.**

## **53 STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY**

The Chair of the Licensing Committee presented a report seeking adoption of a new Statement of Gambling Policy, as set out on pages 79 – 126 of the agenda, giving councillors the opportunity to renew the ‘no casino’ resolution should they wish to do so which will otherwise cease to have effect in January 2019.

**RESOLVED to**

- (1) renew the previous ‘no casino’ resolution pursuant to Section 166 of the Gambling Act 2005 so that with effect from 31 January 2019 no casino licences will be issued within the administrative area of the City of Nottingham;**
- (2) adopt the Statement of Gambling Policy as set out in appendix 1 of the report; and**
- (3) authorise the Corporate Director of Commercial and Operations to comply with the relevant statutory requirements in respect of the advertisement and publication of the Statement.**

## **54 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The Leader of the Council presented a report proposing amendments to the Council’s Constitution, as set out on pages 127-144 of the agenda, including amendments to:

- committee terms of reference
- the Scheme of Delegation
- Standing Orders; and
- committee memberships.

**RESOLVED to**

- (1) amend the Area Committee Terms of Reference, as detailed in appendix A to the report, to clarify the Committees’ role in relation to consultation on Section 106 funding;**

- (2) amend the Audit Committee Terms of Reference, as detailed in appendix B to the report, to ensure that it reflects the roles and responsibilities of local authority audit committees;
- (3) amend the Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference to add the Nottingham City Council Chief Executive as a non-voting member of the Board;
- (4) approve non-executive changes to the Scheme of Delegation, as detailed in appendix C to the report;
- (5) amend Standing Orders, as detailed in appendix D to the report, to
  - i) make the deadline for citizen questions submitted for a response at Full Council 9am 2 clear working days before the Council meeting; and
  - ii) clarify what constitutes an appropriate Council question;
- (6) note the executive change to the Scheme of Delegation, as detailed in appendix E to the report;
- (7) note changes to committee memberships, as detailed in appendix F to the report, approved by the Corporate Director for Strategy and Resources as in-year changes; and
- (8) approve the amendments to the relevant parts of the Constitution as required by the above changes.

## **55 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 145-150 of the agenda.

**RESOLVED to note**

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

| <b>Decision Reference Number</b> | <b>Date of Decision</b> | <b>Subject</b>                      | <b>Value of Decision</b> | <b>Reasons for Urgency</b>   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 3274                             | 5 October 2018          | Engagement of professional services | Exempt                   | A letter of engagement was required by 5 October 2018 in order to engage the provider of professional services |

|      |                 |   |        |   |
|------|-----------------|---|--------|---|
| 3297 | 26 October 2018 | Investment acquisition – Project Fothergill | Exempt | The terms for the purchase stated that contracts had to be exchanged on this property matter within 15 days of receiving a full legal pack and that completion shall be 5 days after. |
|------|-----------------|---|--------|---|

**(2) the Key Decisions taken under special urgency procedures:**

| Decision Reference Number | Date of Decision  | Subject                                     | Value of Decision | Reason for Special Urgency  |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| 3270                      | 28 September 2018 | Investment Acquisition – Project Brookfield | Exempt            | Heads of Terms had been agreed with the vendor and a condition of the sale was an exchange within 10 days of receiving the full legal pack, and completion 5 days thereafter. |
| 3297                      | 26 October 2018   | Investment Acquisition – Project Fothergill | Exempt            | Heads of Terms had been agreed with the vendor and a condition of the sale was an exchange within 15 days of receiving the full legal pack, and completion 5 days thereafter. |
| 3301                      | 26 October 2018   | Investment Acquisition – Project Aston      | £1,750,000        | Legal work was already underway and waiting 28 days would have delayed receiving income from the investment further.  |
| 3309                      | 30 October 2018   | Progressing Development Projects            | Exempt            | Orders needed to be placed urgently in order to provide programme certainty.  |

## **56 AMENDMENTS TO POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES**

The Deputy Leader of the Council presented a report setting out proposed delegations to the Chief Executive to make changes to polling districts and places, as set out on pages 151 – 154 of the agenda.

### **RESOLVED to**

- (1) delegate authority to the Chief Executive to make any changes to polling districts for the elections in 2019, which in his view are made necessary by the ward boundary changes brought into force by the Nottingham (Electoral Change) Order 2018;**
- (2) delegate authority to the Chief Executive to make any changes to polling places for the elections in 2019 in those affected polling districts, which in his view are made necessary by the ward boundary changes brought into force by the Nottingham (Electoral Changes) Order 2018;**
- (3) delegate authority to the Chief Executive on an on-going basis to identify and resolve any changes to polling places, where the venue is no longer available or fit for purpose in between scheduled formal polling districts and places reviews; and**
- (4) note that a full polling districts and places review will commence after the local elections in summer 2019, in conjunction with the scheduled Parliamentary Polling Districts and Places Review, which is required to be completed by no later than January 2020.**

## **57 NOTTINGHAM HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION STRATEGY 2019 TO 2024**

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning presented a report seeking adoption of a new Homelessness Prevention Strategy for 2019 to 2024, as set out on pages 155 – 246 of the agenda, which had been developed and supported by a cross-sector partnership led by Nottingham City Council.

**RESOLVED to approve the Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2019 to 2024, as set out in appendix 1 of the report.**

## **58 MOTION**

Moved by Councillor Nick Raine, seconded by Councillor Linda Woodings:

This Council notes that:

- Government cuts have resulted in more than one in four children (27.7%) in the UK living in poverty with this expected to rise to almost one in three (31.3%) by 2021-22.
- A survey by Plan International UK found that 1 in 10 teenage girls have been unable to afford sanitary products.

- 56% of teenage girls stated they would rather be bullied at school than talk to their parents about their periods
- This is a particular problem for girls from low-income families where the choice is often between buying food or sanitary items.
- In many cases girls lose a significant number of days of schooling.
- Women in low-income employment are sometimes unable to afford sanitary products when struggling to meet household bills and feed their families and the choice is often between buying food or sanitary items.
- In many cases women miss work, training and career opportunities.  
Only female prisoners have a statutory right to access free sanitary products.

This Council resolves to:

- take a partnership approach to ensuring that sanitary products are available in schools across Nottingham;
- encourage businesses in the City to provide sanitary products for staff.

**RESOLVED to carry the motion.**

## **59 BREXIT UPDATE**

The Chair of the Audit Committee presented a report updating Council on recent developments in relation to Brexit, some potential impacts and the actions that the Council has taken to date, as set out on pages 247 – 252 of the agenda.

**RESOLVED to**

- (1) reaffirm the Council's policy, originally adopted at Full Council on 9 November 2015, that the City Council believes it is in the best interests of business, residents and the whole city of Nottingham for the UK to continue its membership of the European Union, while seeking reform on a number of key issues;**
- (2) note the report from officers on the potential impact of leaving the European Union on Nottingham City;**
- (3) ask that all service and project plans are reviewed with regard to Brexit and that assurances of progress are reported to the Audit Committee; and**
- (4) ask that a report of the status of the authority's emergency planning with regard to Brexit is presented to the Audit Committee in the new year.**

The Meeting concluded at 5.01 pm



**CITY COUNCIL – 21 JANUARY 2019**

**REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES**

**1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 As required by the Council's Constitution, this report informs Council of urgent decisions taken under provisions within both the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and Access to Information Procedure Rules.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note the urgent decisions taken as detailed in the appendices.

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To ensure compliance with the procedures detailed in the Council's Constitution.

**4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 None.

**5 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

- 5.1 Call in and Urgency (Overview and Scrutiny) Procedure Rules: Councillors will be aware that the call in procedure does not apply where the decision taken is urgent. A decision is urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. Part 4 of the Constitution requires that where a decision is taken under the urgency procedure that decision needs to be reported to the next available meeting of Council, together with the reasons for urgency. The urgency procedure requires that the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must agree that the decision proposed is reasonable in the circumstances and that it should be treated as a matter of urgency. In the absence of the Chair, one of the Vice Chairs' consent is required. Details of the decisions made where the call in procedure has not applied due to urgency are set out in Appendix 1.
- 5.2 Special Urgency – Access to Information Rules: the Local Authorities Executive Arrangements (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 introduced a requirement for 28 clear days public notice to be given of all proposed key decisions. Where it is not possible to give the full 28 days' notice, but there is time to give at least 5 clear days notice, the General Exception procedure applies (paragraph 13, Access to Information Rules, Part 4 of the Constitution). Where 5 clear days notice is also not possible, the above Regulations provide for a Special Urgency Procedure.
- 5.3 An urgent key decision may only be taken under the Special Urgency Procedure if the decision taker has obtained agreement that the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred. Agreement must be obtained from (i) the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, or (ii) if there is no such person, or if the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is unable to act, the Lord Mayor (as Chair of Council), or (iii) where there is no Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Lord Mayor, or they are unable to act, the Sheriff (as Vice Chair of Council). Once

agreement has been sought and as soon as is reasonably practicable, the decision maker must publish a notice at the Council's offices and on the Council's website to state that the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.

- 5.4 In addition, the procedure requires that the Leader of the Council submits (at least quarterly) reports to Council containing details of each executive decision taken during the period since the last report where the making of the decision was agreed as a case of special urgency (paragraph 16.2, Access to Information Rules, Part 4 of the Constitution). Details of key decisions taken under the Special Urgency Procedure are set out in Appendix 2.

**6 FINANCE COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY)**

- 6.1 None

**7 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)**

- 7.1 None

**8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)**

- 8.1 An EIA is not required as the report does not relate to new or changing services or policies.

**9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION**

- 9.1 None.

**10 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

- 10.1 Nottingham City Council Constitution
- 10.2 The delegated decisions and committee reports detailed in the appendices to the report, as published on the City Council's website.

**COUNCILLOR JON COLLINS  
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**



**Decisions Exempt from Call-In**

| <b>Decision Reference Number</b> | <b>Date of Decision</b> | <b>Subject</b>                      | <b>Value of Decision</b> | <b>Decision Taker</b>   | <b>Consultee on Urgency</b>                    | <b>Reasons for Urgency</b>   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|--|
| 3349                             | 18 December 2018        | Financing Arrangements              | Exempt                   | Deputy Leader/<br>Portfolio Holder<br>for Finance,<br>Resources and<br>Commercial<br>Services | Chair of Overview<br>and Scrutiny<br>Committee | There was urgency for funding to be transferred to a company wholly owned by the organisation. If the financial transfer had not been undertaken by 14 December 2018 the company would have incurred additional costs. |
| 3350                             | 17 December 2018        | Purchase of Ex<br>Right to Buy Flat | Exempt                   | Portfolio Holder<br>for Planning and<br>Housing   | Chair of Overview<br>and Scrutiny<br>Committee | The Council was buying from mortgagees in possession and time was of the essence.  |

**Key Decisions taken under the Special Urgency Procedure**

| <b>Decision Reference Number</b> | <b>Date of Decision</b> | <b>Subject</b>         | <b>Value of Decision</b> | <b>Decision Taker</b>  | <b>Reason for Special Urgency</b>  |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| 3349                             | 18 December 2018        | Financing Arrangements | Exempt                   | Deputy Leader/<br>Portfolio Holder for<br>Finance, Resources<br>and Commercial<br>Services | There was urgency for funding to be transferred to a company wholly owned by the organisation. If the financial transfer had not been undertaken by 14 December 2018 the company would have incurred additional costs. |