

Public Document Pack

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Old Market Square

on 20 May 2019 from 2.00 pm - 5.05 pm

ATTENDANCES:

✓ Liaqat Ali (Lord Mayor until item 3)	
✓ Councillor Rosemary Healy (Lord Mayor from item 3 onwards)	
✓ Councillor Hassan Ahmed	✓ Councillor Patience Ifediora
✓ Councillor Leslie Ayoola	✓ Councillor Chantal Lee
✓ Councillor Cheryl Barnard	✓ Councillor Dave Liversidge
✓ Councillor Steve Battlemuch	✓ Councillor Sally Longford
✓ Councillor Merlita Bryan	✓ Councillor AJ Matsiko
✓ Councillor Eunice Campbell-Clark	✓ Councillor Carole McCulloch
✓ Councillor Graham Chapman	✓ Councillor David Mellen
✓ Councillor Azad Choudhry	✓ Councillor Sajid Mohammed
✓ Councillor Kevin Clarke	✓ Councillor Salma Mumtaz
✓ Councillor Audrey Dinnall	✓ Councillor Toby Neal
✓ Councillor Michael Edwards	✓ Councillor Lauren O'Grady
✓ Councillor Sam Gardiner	✓ Councillor Anne Peach
✓ Councillor Jay Hayes	✓ Councillor Georgia Power
✓ Councillor Nicola Heaton	✓ Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos
✓ Councillor Phil Jackson	✓ Councillor Ethan Radford
✓ Councillor Maria Joannou	✓ Councillor Nick Raine
✓ Councillor Sue Johnson	✓ Councillor Angharad Roberts
✓ Councillor Kirsty Jones	✓ Councillor Andrew Rule
✓ Councillor Angela Kandola	✓ Councillor Mohammed Saghir
✓ Councillor Jawaid Khalil	✓ Councillor Wendy Smith
✓ Councillor Gul Nawaz Khan	✓ Councillor Roger Steel
✓ Councillor Neghat Nawaz Khan	✓ Councillor Dave Trimble
✓ Councillor Zafran Nawaz Khan	✓ Councillor Maria Watson
✓ Councillor Pavlos Kotsonis	✓ Councillor Sam Webster
✓ Councillor Jane Lakey	✓ Councillor Adele Williams
✓ Councillor Rebecca Langton	✓ Councillor Linda Woodings
	✓ Councillor Cate Woodward
	✓ Councillor Audra Wynter

✓ Indicates present at meeting

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Cheryl Barnard – leave
Councillor Kevin Clarke - leave
Councillor Sue Johnson – medical appointment
Councillor Carole McCulloch - leave

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

3 TO ELECT A LORD MAYOR AND APPOINT A SHERIFF FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

RESOLVED to

(1) elect Councillor Rosemary Healy as the Lord Mayor until the next annual meeting of Council, as nominated by Councillor Leslie Ayoola and seconded by Councillor Sajid Mohammed; and

(2) appoint Councillor Patience Ifediora as the Sheriff until the next annual meeting of Council, as nominated by Councillor Graham Chapman and seconded by Councillor Neghat Khan.

4 TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE LORD MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN

The Lord Mayor will notify Council of her appointment of Lord Mayor's Chaplain at the Council meeting on 8 July 2019.

5 ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS - 2 MAY 2019

RESOLVED to note the election of councillors to their wards as follows:

Aspley Ward	Councillor Graham Chapman Councillor Patience Ifediora Councillor Carole McCulloch
Basford Ward	Councillor Salma Mumtaz Councillor Nick Raine Councillor Linda Woodings
Berridge Ward	Councillor Angela Kandola Councillor Toby Neal Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos
Bestwood Ward	Councillor Jay Hayes Councillor Georgia Power Councillor Audra Wynter
Bilborough Ward	Councillor Phil Jackson Councillor Rebecca Langton Councillor Wendy Smith
Bulwell Ward	Councillor Maria Joannou Councillor Jane Lakey Councillor Ethan Radford

Bulwell Forest Ward	Councillor Cheryl Barnard Councillor Eunice Campbell-Clark Councillor Samuel Gardiner
Castle Ward	Councillor Angharad Roberts Councillor Sam Webster
Clifton East Ward	Councillor Kevin Clarke Councillor Kirsty Jones Councillor Maria Watson
Clifton West Ward	Councillor Andrew Rule Councillor Roger Steel
Dales Ward	Councillor Gul Khan Councillor Neghat Khan Councillor David Mellen
Hyson Green and Arboretum Ward	Councillor Merlita Bryan Councillor Azad Choudhry Councillor Jawaid Khalil
Leen Valley Ward	Councillor Audrey Dinnall Councillor Mohammed Saghir
Lenton and Wollaton East Ward	Councillor Pavlos Kotsonis Councillor Sally Longford Councillor David Trimble
Mapperley Ward	Councillor Leslie Ayoola Councillor Rosemary Healy Councillor Sajid Mohammed
Meadows Ward	Councillor Michael Edwards Councillor Nicola Heaton
Radford Ward	Councillor Hassan Ahmed Councillor Anne Peach
Sherwood Ward	Councillor AJ Matsiko Councillor Lauren O'Grady Councillor Adele Williams
St Anns Ward	Councillor Sue Johnson Councillor Chantal Lee Councillor Dave Liversidge
Wollaton West Ward	Councillor Steve Battlemuch Councillor Zafran Khan Councillor Cate Woodward

6 TO ELECT A LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FOR A 4 YEAR TERM

RESOLVED to elect Councillor David Mellen as Leader of the Council for a 4 year term ending in May 2023, as nominated by Councillor Sam Webster and seconded by Councillor Wendy Smith.

7 EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS, REMITS AND FIRST MEETINGS 2019/20

The Leader of the Council presented a report setting out his appointment of Deputy Leader, Portfolio Holders and Executive Assistants; and details of Executive committees and their terms of reference and first meeting dates.

RESOLVED to note

- (1) the appointment of Councillor Sally Longford as Deputy Leader**
- (2) the appointment of Portfolio Holders and Executive Assistants, and their roles and responsibilities as detailed below and in Appendix 2 of the report:**

Portfolio Holder Appointments

Portfolio Holder name	Portfolio
Councillor David Mellen	Regeneration, Safety and Communications
Councillor Sally Longford	Energy, Environment and Democratic Services
Councillor Cheryl Barnard	Children and Young People
Councillor Eunice Campbell-Clark	Health, HR and Equalities
Councillor Neghat Nawaz Khan	Early Years, Education and Employment
Councillor Rebecca Langton	Communities
Councillor Dave Trimble	Leisure, Culture and IT
Councillor Sam Webster	Finance, Growth and the City Centre
Councillor Adele Williams	Adult Care and Local Transport
Councillor Linda Woodings	Housing, Planning and Heritage

Executive Assistant Appointments

Executive Assistant name	Remit
Councillor Leslie Ayoola	Regeneration and Safe Nottingham
Councillor Merlita Bryan	Schools and Nottingham Customer Care
Councillor Chantal Lee	Housing and Child Friendly Nottingham
Councillor Angela Kandola	Energy and Nottingham Welcome

Councillor Zafran Nawaz Khan	IT and Green Nottingham
-------------------------------------	--------------------------------

(3) the terms of reference for Executive committees, and related changes to the Constitution, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report

(4) the first meeting dates for Executive committees as detailed below:

Committee	Date of first meeting
Executive Board	21 May 2019 1:30pm
Commissioning and Procurement Sub Committee	11 June 2019 10am
Executive Board Strategic Regeneration Committee	To be confirmed
East Midlands Shared Services Joint Committee	17 June 2019 10:30am
Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Economic Prosperity Committee	4 June 2019 10:30am

(5) the appointments, including substitutes where applicable, to Executive committees as detailed below:

Executive Board

Councillor David Mellen (Chair)
Councillor Sally Longford
Councillor Cheryl Barnard
Councillor Eunice Campbell-Clark
Councillor Neghat Nawaz Khan
Councillor Rebecca Langton
Councillor Dave Trimble
Councillor Sam Webster
Councillor Adele Williams
Councillor Linda Woodings

Commissioning and Procurement Sub Committee

Councillor Sam Webster (Chair)
Councillor Cheryl Barnard
Councillor Eunice Campbell-Clark
Councillor Sally Longford
Councillor Adele Williams

East Midlands Shared Services Joint Committee

Councillor Sam Webster (Chair)
Councillor Eunice Campbell-Clark

Substitutes:

Councillor Linda Woodings
Councillor Neghat Nawaz Khan
Councillor Rebecca Langton
Councillor Dave Trimble
Councillor Adele Williams
Councillor Cheryl Barnard

Executive Board Strategic Regeneration Committee

Councillor David Mellen (Chair)
Councillor Sally Longford
Councillor Neghat Nawaz Khan
Councillor Linda Woodings
Councillor Adele Williams
Councillor Rebecca Langton

City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee

Councillor David Mellen

Substitute:

Councillor Sam Webster

(6) the executive delegations as set out in the Scheme of Delegation in the Council's Constitution.

8 APPOINTMENTS, REMITS AND FIRST MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES AND JOINT BODIES 2019/20

The Lord Mayor presented a report detailing the terms of reference, first meeting dates and appointments to Council committees and joint bodies.

RESOLVED to

(1) agree the terms of reference for Council committees and joint bodies as set out in Appendix 1 of the report and amend the Constitution to reflect changes to the terms of reference for Area Committees, Audit Committee and Greater Nottingham Light Rapid Transit Advisory Committee and other minor administrative changes

(2) agree the first meeting dates for Council committees and joint bodies as set out below:

Committee	Date and time of first meeting
Appeals Committee	As and when required
Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee	2 July 2019 2pm
Aspley, Bilborough and Leen Valley Area Committee	11 June 2019 5:30pm
Audit Committee	26 July 2019 10:30am
Basford, Berridge and Sherwood Area Committee	25 June 2019 5:30pm
Bestwood, Bulwell and Bulwell Forest Area Committee	11 June 2019 5:30pm
Castle, Hyson Green and Arboretum and Radford Area Committee	12 June 2019 5:30pm
Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	11 June 2019 11am

Clifton East and Clifton West Area Committee	26 June 5:30pm
Corporate Parenting Board	3 June 2019 2:30pm
Dales, St Anns and Mapperley Area Committee	12 June 2019 5:30pm
Greater Nottingham Light Rapid Transit Advisory Committee	11 June 2019 2pm
Health and Wellbeing Board	29 May 2019 2pm
Health and Wellbeing Board Commissioning Sub Committee	29 May 2019 4pm or at the rising of the Health and Wellbeing Board if that is later
Health Scrutiny Committee	13 June 2019 10am
Independent Panel	As and when required
Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee	As and when required
Joint Committee for Strategic Planning and Transport	7 June 2019 10am
Lenton and Wollaton East, Meadows and Wollaton West Area Committee	19 June 2019 5:30pm
Licensing Committee	As and when required
Licensing Panels	As and when required
Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority	7 June 2019 10:30am
Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel	3 June 2019 2pm
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	5 June 2019 2pm
Overview and Scrutiny Call In Panel	As and when required
Planning Committee	29 May 2019 2:30pm
Regulatory and Appeals Committee	16 July 2019 1:30pm
Standards Committee	As and when required
Trusts and Charities Committee	14 June 2019 12:30pm

(3) appoint the membership, and where applicable substitutes, for Council committees and joint bodies as set out in Appendix 3 to the report

(4) appoint the chairs for Council committees and joint bodies as set out in Appendix 3 to the report

9 QUESTIONS FROM CITIZENS

Travel for disabled citizens

DS asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

Will the new Leader Councillor Mellen and the new Labour Cabinet order an immediate review of the Mobility Bus Pass Policy with a view to reinstating the universal 24/7 nature of the Mobility Bus Holders?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank the citizen for this question. Since the introduction of the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme, Nottingham City Council has offered more than the statutory requirements for concessionary travel for the people of Nottingham. This included additional pre-9:30am and post-11pm free travel for mobility card holders. As part of the budget process for 2018/19 the Council proposed a budget saving of £100,000 per year, and in September 2018 free travel for mobility card holders before 9:30am and post-11:30pm was withdrawn. In taking the decision to remove the additional scheme, which has been entirely funded by the Council, we agreed to investigate alternative proposals that might mitigate the impact of the change for those suffering hardship. However, following significant and continued cuts to our budget, the Council stood by its decision to withdraw the concession for mobility card holders. Colleagues across the Chamber will know that since 2010, Nottingham's Core Settlement has fallen by £145 million and since 2013, Nottingham's Revenue Support Grant has fallen from £126 million to just £25 million next year. In that same period, this Council has made cumulative savings of more than £267 million to deal with not just the cuts in government funding, but also the effects of a changing demography whilst maintaining core services. This was a difficult decision but we continue to do our best to do what we can and to use our resources efficiently. Notwithstanding all that, I am prepared to look at the decision again and work alongside the Portfolio Holder to review the policy.

Travel for disabled citizens

DS asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

Why has the Council said that it cannot use reserves when it has quite rightly used reserves to fund the Marcus Garvey Centre for 2019/20, and has this set and established a precedent meaning that these same reserves can be used to fund the equally important 24/7 Mobility Passes going forward?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor. I would like to thank again the citizen for the question. In my previous response I confirmed my commitment to work alongside the Portfolio Holder and review the decision to remove the concessionary scheme for mobility card holders. At this stage, it would be premature to confirm the scope or speculate on any possible outcome, but you have my commitment that a meaningful and robust review will take place within 3 months.

10 PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS ON BEHALF OF CITIZENS

Councillor Gul Khan submitted a petition regarding reinstallation of a barrier to Kingston Court Car Park.

11 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 4 MARCH 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

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

Ian Curryer, Chief Executive, reported the following:

New councillors

I would like to welcome the 24 new councillors and returning councillors who were elected to represent wards in the City in the local elections on 2 May 2019.

Nottingham Performing Arts Library Service

The Nottingham Performing Arts Library Service won the Excellence Award for Music Libraries 2019 at the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centre, UK and Ireland Awards for its innovative work to provide music and drama groups with an outstanding, cost-effective regional loans service for music scores and play scripts.

Former Councillor Pat Ferguson

It is with great sadness that I report the death of former Councillor Pat Ferguson on 18 March 2019. She was elected to represent the Clifton North ward in 2014 and stood down in 2018.

Honorary Alderman Brian Markin

I am sad to report the death of Alderman Brian Markin in March 2019. He was elected to represent the then Robin Hood ward between 1995 and 2003 and subsequently the Leen Valley ward from 2003 to 2006.

Former Lord Mayor's Sergeant Neil Smith

I also sad to report that Neil Smith, former Lord Mayor's Sergeant, passed away in April.

Councillors Battlemuch, Edwards and Saghir spoke in tribute to former Councillor Pat Ferguson, Honorary Alderman Brian Markin and former Lord Mayor's Sergeant Neil Smith respectively and a minute's silence was held.

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

None.

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

Housing evictions

Councillor Toby Neal asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Heritage:

Does the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Heritage welcome the government's announcement of a consultation on abolishing section 21 no fault evictions?

Councillor Linda Woodings replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I start by congratulating both yourself Lord Mayor and our Sheriff on your election, and our new Leader and Deputy Leader on their election. I look forward to working with all of my new councillor colleagues as well and congratulate you on your election, but I especially want to mention the newly elected women councillors that mean we are now, in my understanding, the first majority female council in the country.

So thank you for this question. The private rented sector has grown substantially over the past 20 years and is now home to a fifth of households in the United Kingdom, that's 4.7 million people. So many more people can now expect to live in the private rented sector for longer and more importantly, 1.7 million of these households contain almost 3 million children. However, the rules and regulations that underpin the private rented sector have not kept pace with this growth. This means tenants in private rented homes can face unaffordability, poor conditions, a lack of security of tenure and a limited control over the place that they want to call home. Meanwhile, a perfect storm of cuts to benefits and a national shortage of homes leading to increased rents have led to an imbalanced relationship between landlord and renter with all the power with the landlords, some of whom are unscrupulous. In truth, Britain's broken rented housing sector needs to become more like Germany's, where more than half the population enjoy secure and mostly happy private tenancies averaging 11 years. By contrast, in Britain tenancies average just 30 months.

So yes, I do welcome the consultation over the abolition of Section 21 No Fault Evictions and I can confirm that the Council will submit a response. In addition to that, I am determined that the voices of the people who have suffered no fault evictions, including revenge evictions, will be put forward as part of the evidence as well. Unfortunately colleagues, I have a level of cynicism about this announcement, specifically its timing. It was announced just two weeks before the local elections. Was this possibly a last minute, desperate, vote-catching policy by the Conservative Government, who then went on to lose more than 1300 seats? Too little, too late, especially when you consider that the Government conducted an almost identical consultation last August, but took no action. Also, this commitment is only to hold a consultation and we know from our own experience in introducing selective licensing that the landlord lobby is well-connected, well-organised and well-funded, and so I fear an eventual watering down of the fine words which accompanied this announcement.

That said we welcome that there is, on the face of it, a recognition from the Government that Section 21 evictions are a major contributor to homelessness, especially amongst families. They bring insecurity, instability, anxiety and misery to people's lives. They bring disruption to children's education and they contribute to poor mental health in children and the vulnerable. To deprive someone of their home without good cause should be illegal. Your rented property should be your home and you should be part of the neighbourhood and contribute to a stable and well-balanced community. The current system can be used by landlords who either want to speculatively try to increase their rents and, as I have said, it can be used in retaliation for example when a tenant has requested repairs or contacted the Environmental Health Department to report a hazard at their property. Findings from a report published by Citizens Advice show that tenants reporting a problem with their home had a 46% chance of being evicted within the following 6 months and that is scandalous. Clearly, this type of behaviour is completely unacceptable because it unfairly targets people for eviction and steps to prevent that should be welcomed.

Nottingham City Council wants to see a well-functioning private rented sector, including homes that are in good repair and protection for good tenants. So ministers have indicated that they will amend the Section 8 process to allow it to be used by landlords if they want to sell their property or move back in themselves, but unlike Section 21, tenants can challenge Section 8 evictions in court. The proposed changes have of course drawn fury from landlords' representatives, who say that no fault eviction rules have been used as a way to get around lengthy court delays when landlords need to evict tenants if they fall into significant arrears. So in response to this, we do recognise that landlords should be able to evict tenants in certain circumstances, for example, those who are committing severe anti-social behaviour, causing damage or severe nuisance, drug-dealing and criminal behaviour or falling substantially behind in their rent. What we need to see and want to see is better rights for renters with an appeals process to give good reason for evictions that must be evidenced.

So was this a cynical attempt to curry favour with voters in advance of the local elections or was this a genuine acknowledgement of the imbalanced rented housing market and the misery caused by Section 21 evictions? Only time will tell, but no matter what the outcome I can assure the citizens of Nottingham that Labour will continue to fight for better rights for renters and for safe, decent and secure homes for everyone.

Climate change

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

Can the Portfolio Holder for Energy, Environment and Democratic Services comment on how the UK Parliament being the first in the world to declare a climate emergency may help Nottingham achieve its zero carbon targets?

Councillor Sally Longford replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Peach for your question. As I am sure you would expect, I'm very happy that the UK Parliament has declared a climate and environment emergency in a motion tabled by Jeremy Corbyn. Unfortunately, this was not backed by the current Conservative Environment Secretary Michael Gove and does not legally compel the Government to act. It was very much a symbolic move.

The Labour Party calls on the Government to come up with a range of clear proposals within a few months just as local authorities like ourselves are in the process of doing now, having already made pledges to tackle climate change. As you know, I brought a motion to Council earlier this year pledging to make our city carbon neutral by 2028, ahead of all cities in the country. This pledge went into our manifesto and the Council's Energy Team are currently developing plans to make that happen. In order to be successful in our manifesto pledge, we want the Government to back us and the commitment of a forward-looking, environmentally aware Parliament. There is no room for climate change denial here. We need a more supportive policy environment to bring a raft of changes, incentivising decarbonisation of the energy industry, radical changes in building regulations, support for programmes to retrofit energy inefficient homes and a huge investment in clean transport technology.

We in Nottingham have a proud record of innovation in the environmental sector and we have already made progress in carbon reduction. We were at the forefront of retrofitting insulation projects to council houses and providing them with solar panels. We work closely with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and are spreading our clean energy expertise within the Midlands Energy Hub. We are a testbed for new technology with our 'Vehicle to Grid' project that is happening now at the Eastcroft Depot, Energiesprong and the Remourban project in Sneinton, soon to spread into Radford, but there is only so much we can do. Warm words will not crack this massive problem. Radical change is needed if we are to avoid the devastating impacts of climate change and I hope our friends in Parliament and in Extinction Rebellion will be doing all they can to send a strong message to Michael Gove and his ilk that they must get behind this now. Thank you.

Mental health

Councillor Georgia Power asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Growth and the City Centre (formerly the Portfolio Holder for Adults and Health):

Following Mental Health Awareness Week, does the Portfolio Holder agree that events such as Bestwood Healthy Minds have a fundamental role to play in helping our city understand mental health and will they help more of such events to happen across the city?

Councillor Sam Webster replied as follows:

Thank you, I'm actually answering this question on behalf of Councillor Campbell-Clarke. We are just in the handover process, so I will take this one on today.

Thank you for your question. Too many people with mental health problems are made to feel isolated, unable to talk about what they are going through, and all too aware of the stigma that can still be associated with mental health issues. But with the right support from those around them, people can recover and have equal opportunities in all areas of life. Encouraging people to open up to mental health, to talk and to listen, is the first step.

One in four people in the UK experience a mental health problem each year. In Nottingham more than 100,000 adults aged over 16 will experience mental health problems. Those with serious mental illness are likely to die 15-20 years younger than the general population. Mental health and wellbeing is lower where deprivation is highest.

Last week was Mental Health Awareness Week, an annual programme of events aimed at reducing stigma and promoting a better understanding of mental health and wellbeing. In Nottingham, we had many events and activities last week and the Council played a full part as the local authority and as one of the city's biggest employers. One such event in Nottingham City was, as Councillor Power mentioned, the Bestwood Healthy Minds Conversation. The Bestwood Healthy Minds Conversation was borne out of joined up working between Nottingham City Council, its partners and, most importantly, the community. The conversations were citizen-led and focused on support mechanisms, particularly those available from the local community.

Despite the huge reductions in council funding from government, including ongoing cuts to Nottingham's Public Health Grant, there is some really good work happening in neighbourhoods across the city, supported by dedicated teams of workers and volunteers. Another such example is Nottingham Time to Change. The Nottingham Time to Change Hub was set up in 2018 to change how we all think and act about mental health. The Hub's vision is to create a Nottingham where people talk openly about mental health in the same way as they would physical health, without fear or discrimination. Self Help UK are the co-ordinators of The Hub, but at its heart are more than 80 local champions with lived experience of mental health who lead activity in their local communities.

Nottingham City Council set an example to other local employers by signing the Time to Change Employer Pledge back in 2014. Since the Time to Change Hub was established, the Council has been working with more than 25 employers to develop wellbeing action plans that will improve and support the mental health of local workers.

The NHS Long Term Plan published earlier this year set out a national commitment to improving mental health. Locally, this week has seen the start of the consultation on the draft refresh of Nottingham City's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

We are committed to supporting further mental health information support events. Can I end by thanking you Councillor Power for work you have done as a mental health champion and I look forward to you continuing this focus in your new role as Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee. Thank you.

Equality and diversity

Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

Would the Leader welcome the fact that the new Labour majority group reflects and represents the diverse communities in the city, and for the first time ever has better than gender balance in the Council's Executive and amongst the Majority Group's elected members?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank Councillor Quddoos for her question. On 2 May Nottingham elected the councillors to represent the communities of our city for the next four years. For the first time, the people have elected more women than men to represent them. 101 years after some women got the vote for the first time, this Council has at last achieved gender equality for the first time, and yes Councillor Quddoos, I am pleased about that achievement. It has been long overdue and very welcome.

I am immensely proud to say that the commitment made in our manifesto by Nottingham Labour to ensure that at least half of the Labour councillors elected are women has already been kept, and this afternoon I am delighted to introduce our new Portfolio Team, which includes seven women, far more than ever before.

The role of Deputy Leader is now held by Councillor Sally Longford. The last time a woman sat in the Leader's Office was in 1993 under Betty Higgins as the Leader, who sadly passed away last year. Betty was hugely supportive throughout her life of women getting into politics. I had the privilege to work alongside her for a short time, and I know she would be brimming with pride and excitement for the brilliant team of women who now make up the Council's Executive Board.

Ensuring the Council reflects and represents the diverse communities in the city cannot be complete without more representation from BAME communities. As we look across the Chamber today, we see that it is more diverse than it has been before. We have to go further before we are truly representative across all levels of the Council, but we should celebrate the progress that has been made with not only more members of the Executive from diverse backgrounds, but every single one of the Executive Assistants from BAME backgrounds. I'm also particularly delighted that Councillor Kandola is the first member of the Sikh community ever elected to the Council.

I am also looking forward to working alongside our talented and diverse group to build a safer, cleaner city where all residents have opportunities to prosper and reach their full potential. Nottingham Labour recognises that the City Council has a role to play in leading by setting an example on equalities.

Contrast this Council Chamber with the Local Government Association study, which found shortly before the last election that 96 percent of councillors were white and two thirds were male. More than a quarter were also over 70 years old. So often the criticism is thrown at politicians that they are all the same or they just don't look or

sound like me. I hope the new intake of councillors here today shows people in our city that the Council is a place that reflects and represents them and the democratic process is something they can and should get involved with.

This is a continuation of a strong record on equalities already, with some of the Council's achievements including:

- Stonewall routinely recognising Nottingham City Council as one of Britain's top 100 LGBT friendly employers;
- Nottingham being identified as LGBT friendly in research by Middlesex University;
- Nottingham as one of the fastest growing cities for disability sport in the UK;
- 62 new special school places for children with additional needs and funded support to help children with special educational needs get on in mainstream schools;
- Nottinghamshire Police was the first in the UK to categorise misogyny as a hate crime;
- An annual programme of events celebrating important cultural holidays such as St Patrick's Day, Vaisakhi, Eid, Christmas and much more.

Diversity is one of Nottingham's great strengths. We cannot be complacent but I am proud to be the Council Leader in a city where people generally get on well with one another, with Nottingham recently being named as the friendliest city in the UK, with 98 percent of residents saying they know their neighbours well and look out for them.

There are challenging times ahead but together with my colleagues across the Council and drawing on people's wide ranging experiences and strengths, I believe we can make our city an even better place to live and find innovative ways of delivering on our pledges to the people of our city.

Debt management

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

In a recent interview with the West Bridgford Wire the Leader of the Council indicated that the Council's debt needed to be manageable. How does he intend to ensure this is the case and how will this be measured?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank Councillor Rule for his question. Capital investment has enabled the Council to deliver the capital requirements that have arisen from our priorities, for example the Southside regeneration, the Castle transformation and the building of much needed new homes. This planned investment will ensure that Nottingham continues to be a great city with Citizens at the Heart.

Under the rules of the Prudential Code, the Council has the power to finance capital projects through borrowing that does not attract support from the Government. The key principle in this prudential borrowing is that it must be affordable and consequently it is heavily regulated. This method of financing is used for those

schemes that demonstrate they can deliver savings or make a return on investment to cover the debt repayments of interest and principal.

All borrowing is subject to:

- a robust business case that details how the related schemes will cover the costs of borrowing or make a commercial return;
- the prudential indicators for limits on external debt;
- ensuring the borrowing and the Council's overall debt levels are prudent, affordable, sustainable and in proportion with the level of resources available to the Council.

The Council approves a Capital and Investment Strategy and a Treasury Management Strategy, which provides the following:

- a high-level long term overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services;
- an overview of how the associated risk is managed;
- the implications for future financial sustainability.

The Council approves prudential indicators prescribed by the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to assess the affordability of the capital investment programmes and to limit the amount of borrowing the Council can take on. These include a projection of external debt and use of internal borrowing to support capital expenditure and the overall borrowing requirement.

The level of debt is also measured against the value of the assets that are reflected on the Council's balance sheet and currently this equates to approximately 48%. This level is consistent with similar sized councils.

So, as you can see Councillor Rule, there are a variety of checks and balances that contribute towards reasonable borrowing, but I hope you will join with me in calling on this Government to invest more in capital projects in Nottingham so that our borrowing needs become less.

Youth Centres

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

Will the Leader of the Council make it a priority to end the chronic under-utilisation of the City's Youth Centre's by opening them up to the voluntary sector during the forthcoming Council term?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank Councillor Rule for his question. During the last year Nottingham City Council has provided 1,907 youth and play sessions with over 28,000 attendances by children and young people. These have taken place across the city with availability to children and young people in every community. In addition, we have funded the voluntary sector to provide a raft of activities for young people across the city. Last year, staff from youth and play services worked closely with voluntary and community volunteers to provide food during the summer holidays

to children who would go hungry without the 2,160 packed lunches we worked together to make from our centres and bases last year.

Councillor Rule will be aware that many local authorities across the country have had to cease providing any youth services due to the underfunding of children's services. Nottingham City has been absolutely committed to providing opportunities for our children and young people to have play and youth opportunities in every area of the city and we will continue to run a citywide service for children and young people.

Our sessions operate in both the buildings that we own and in other community buildings, schools and outdoor spaces to enable us to reach as many children and young people as possible.

We are proud of this delivery and, in the face of harsh government cuts, we have worked closely with the voluntary sector and communities to offer opportunities for voluntary providers to work in partnership using our centres to reach more young people when they are not in use. For example:

- the Bulwell Toy Library runs two play and youth sessions from the Riverside Centre in Bulwell twice each week;
- a basketball group called Hoops runs a popular weekly session in the Riverside Centre;
- the Nottingham University Hospitals Sexual Health Clinic runs a weekly session in Bulwell Riverside - a vital source of advice for young people in the area;
- in St Ann's we have joint sessions with the Community Recording Studio and share usage of the Russell Youth Centre on a daily basis;
- at the Ridge Play Centre in Bestwood, recently extended, a group of children with autism, from Autism East Midlands, use the centre on a weekly basis;
- in Aspley, the voluntary group Evolve run two sessions a week at our Phoenix Play Centre;
- at the Meadows Youth Centre, Mencap use this space on a daily basis and this Centre is also used by a rowing club and by Kicks, funded out of Nottingham Forest in the Community.

There are opportunities to do more I accept, and we will be pleased to have discussions with groups wanting to use our space for young people; and we would happily work towards a partnership agreement with them so we can ensure that young people are safeguarded and that there are clear lines of responsibility for the use of the buildings.

So what is chronic, Councillor Rule, is not the level of use of our play centres, but the lack of funding of them by the Government. The failure to recognise the increased demand on children's services nationally recognised by the All-Party Local Government Association means that non-statutory services like youth and play are squeezed into the margins. The preferential treatment given to southern authorities in the Home Counties and the penalisation of the young people in the cities of the Midlands and the North because their parents choose to vote Labour is unfair, short sighted and yes, to use your words Councillor Rule, chronic.

We will continue to offer services to children and young people across our city. We will work in partnership with the voluntary sector and also with uniformed and faith

groups, and with sports and arts groups to offer as wide a possible range of activities for young people and I look forward to working with Councillor Barnard as she leads that area of our work. We will also call on the Government to properly fund these vital services, to stop starving local authorities of cash, and to stop treating areas like Nottingham unfairly. I invite you Councillor Rule to join me in this, standing up for our city.

'Pathways' Initiative

Councillor Andrew Rule asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Growth and the City Centre (formerly Portfolio Holder for Adults and Health):

The Portfolio Holder will be aware of the "Pathways" initiative, which in part promotes volunteering and employment opportunities within the community for users of our day care centres. Will the Portfolio Holder join with me in recognising the fantastic work that the team at Summerwood Day Care Centre in Clifton have done in this regard, particularly in locating an employment opportunity at a local café for one of their users, together with volunteering opportunities for users with local litter picking groups and local charity shops?

Councillor Sam Webster replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank Councillor Rule for his question. I think that in asking this question, he has made a point about his previous question. It is Council staff and paid employees that often lead to this progress for our citizens whether it is in terms of employment or volunteering opportunities; there has to be a core staff there to make those services tick.

But Councillor Rule is quite right. The Council's Adult Social Care Department has developed a new strategy called 'Better Lives Better Outcomes'. One of the key principles of this strategy is to ensure that all citizens are supported to develop their independence and be part of their local communities. The Nottingham Pathway Service (NPS) that Councillor Rule refers to in his question has been supporting the delivery of this by enabling citizens with learning disabilities to learn new skills and live more independently. It is focussed on developing real and meaningful employment and voluntary opportunities. The NPS is to be expanded over the next 12 months and will build on the work that has already been achieved to ensure that citizens with learning disabilities are able to reach their full potential.

Nottingham City Homes

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

Is the Portfolio Holder aware of the recent national coverage Nottingham City Homes received on the BBC's "The Sheriffs Are Coming" programme in which the complainant, a resident of the City, had to engage High Court Sheriffs to attend Loxley House to enforce an unpaid judgment debt against Nottingham City Homes? Given Loxley House is the headquarters of this Council can she confirm to the Chamber what reassurances she has sought from Nottingham City Homes, and been

provided with, to ensure it pays all its debts as and when they fall in order to avoid this kind of embarrassing enforcement action occurring again?

Councillor Linda Woodings replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you for this question Councillor Rule. I am aware of this television programme, and the embarrassment this incident caused to Nottingham City Homes (NCH).

Just for clarity, NCH is the arm's length, management organisation setup by Nottingham City Council to manage its council houses. Although it is wholly owned by the Council, it is formatted as a separate company with its own Board of Directors, three of whom are City Councillors. I did ask for a report from NCH at the time of this incident and I am told by them that, in this case, court proceedings were still ongoing when a reality TV programme arrived without prior notice demanding the first part of an Employment Tribunal payment. A second part of the Tribunal claim had yet to be decided upon by the courts.

NCH had told me that they had not received any notification of an enforcement order prior to the TV cameras arriving, but it has since pursued the Office of the Sheriff for a copy after the arrival of the camera crew. I am sorry to say that, as of today, this has still not been received by NCH. I have also received assurances that, had they been aware, NCH would of course have complied with any such enforcement notice upon receipt.

Colleagues, the Board of NCH takes its responsibilities very seriously and they have requested an independent audit review of the whole incident, and I commit to work with the Chief Executive of NCH to ensure that any lessons from the review are implemented. I am also advised that NCH has written to Ofcom to complain about the programme. They haven't yet received a response.

On a personal level, I met Mr. Brittain last year and I wasn't aware that he was the individual involved in this tribunal case but can I add that, this is a testament to his own determination, he was eventually well enough to be a candidate for the Conservative Party in the Wollaton West By-Election last year and subsequently at the recent local elections as well, and I wish him well in his ongoing recovery from his illness.

15 DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES

The Leader of the Council submitted a report detailing decisions taken under procedures that include exemption from Overview and Scrutiny Call In Procedure Rules and Special Urgency Access to Information Rules.

RESOLVED to note

**(1) that there were no urgent decisions (exempt from call in) to be reported;
and**

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

Decision Reference Number	Date of Decision	Subject	Value of Decision	Reason for Special Urgency
3443	8 March 2019	Broadmarsh roadspace transformation and public realm improvements programme	Exempt	To ensure the timely co-ordination of a number of significant design elements across several major developments in the City Centre
3479	28 March 2019	Nottingham Central Library Development	Exempt	To enable the Central Library business case to be progressed in line with development timescales of other interdependent projects in the Southside area

16 FUTURE MEETING DATES

RESOLVED to:

(1) meet on the following Mondays at 2pm:

- i. 8 July 2019**
- ii. 9 September 2019**
- iii. 11 November 2019**
- iv. 13 January 2020**
- v. 9 March 2020**

(2) hold an Extraordinary Council meeting on 8 July 2019 at the rising of the Ordinary Council meeting on that day to appoint Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen.

17 ADOPTION OF THE PLANS SET OUT IN THE LABOUR MANIFESTO AS THE BASIS OF COUNCIL POLICIES

The Lord Mayor agreed that this item, although not on the agenda, could be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 to enable work to commence as soon as possible in developing the Council Plan and associated policies.

The Leader of the Council presented a report setting out the Labour Manifesto and proposing that the plans set out in that Manifesto are adopted as the basis of Council policies.

RESOLVED to adopt the plans in the Nottingham Labour Manifesto 2019 as a basis of Council policies for the current term.

The Meeting concluded at 5.05 pm

Responses to Written Questions**WQ1****WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE, GROWTH AND THE CITY CENTRE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 20 MAY 2019**

Could the Portfolio Holder provide a breakdown by year of the “availability payments” made to the tram operator since 2015?

Under the terms of the Concession Agreement between the parties, Nottingham City Council make availability payments to Tramlink, the tram concessionaire, subject to operational performance meeting monthly performance targets. The details of the availability payments are classed as confidential information under the terms of the Concession Agreement.

The table below sets out Tramlink’s annual average operational performance, which is used to calculate the availability payment made.

2016: 98.71%
 2017: 98.04%
 2018: 98.66%
 2019: 99.38% (Jan – Apr only)

WQ2**WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE, GROWTH AND THE CITY CENTRE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 20 MAY 2019**

Could the Portfolio Holder confirm how much interest Robin Hood Energy has paid on the debt owed by it to the City Council split out by year since 2015?

The City Council has provided financial support to RHE based on a commercial basis, which is financially beneficial to the City Council and is State Aid compliant. The amount of interest received from Robin Hood Energy since 2015 is £3,058,108. The breakdown by year is set out below:

Total	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
3,058,108	339,299	654,223	721,974	1,342,612

WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING, PLANNING AND HERITAGE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 20 MAY 2019

In Nottingham Labour's manifesto a pledge was made to ensure that the new housing development at Clifton would be fully served with jobs, shops and services for local people – given that the development at Barton Green is completely residential and that the one proposed at "Clifton Pastures" is in Rushcliffe out of the City Council's control – how can Labour possibly achieve this pledge?

Clifton is a significant residential community that is already served by a District Centre, one of only five within the Greater Nottingham administrative areas of Nottingham City, Gedling and Broxtowe. Between 2013 and 2017 the number of jobs based in the two Clifton wards increased by 250. Transport links across the Clifton wards mean that residents are able to access employment opportunities across Nottingham City and the wider Greater Nottingham area.

Within the Aligned Core Strategies (Part 1) Local Plan, the strategic planning document for these authorities (adopted in 2014), the Clifton District Centre was one of those identified as either underperforming or being in need of enhancement. In response, the Council has adopted a number of strategies to enhance the retail and service provision for Clifton citizens, both existing and new:

- The District Centre is now served by NET line 2, with quick and direct access to both the City Centre and Clifton Park & Ride, as well as significant employment sites, such as the Queens Medical Centre.
- Expansion of the District Centre with the now completed retail development at the triangle site on Green Lane (134 full and part time jobs stated on the application form), and approval of further retail development on the surplus car park land to the side of the Morrison's store, which if implemented will provide further employment (60 to 80 jobs).
- Negotiating with Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC) to ensure that the scale of retail development within the Clifton Pastures development merely serves the local need for this development, rather than competing with the existing District Centre, which will remain the primary centre for the expanded Clifton.
- Supporting the expansion of new housing development at Clifton both to meet the City's housing needs and to strengthen the catchment area of the District Centre.
- Seeking S106 contributions from housing developments to provide educational capacity where necessary.

The Barton Green/Clifton West site has been a long term allocation for housing in the Council's Local Plan. It is to provide a relatively modest number of houses in planning terms and would not be of sufficient scale to accommodate or indeed attract interest for associated retail development. Rather, the focus has been on increasing and improving the retail offer of the District Centre. To this end, £500,000 of capital spending was allocated to Clifton, and the projects delivered are as follows -

- New street furniture of cycle racks, benches, bollards and litter bins at Varney Road local shopping parade, main district centre on Southchurch Drive, Holy Trinity shops and Bransdale road shops.
- Repaving the Morrisons cut-through footpath.
- Removing 21 diseased and dying street trees and replacing with new trees, tree pits and tree guards.
- Removing and/or reducing in size the oversized gravel tree pits.
- Re-landscaping and repaving of the market area at the central shops.
- Construction and landscaping of the new entrance to Clifton Flower Park

Regarding Clifton Pastures in Rushcliffe Borough, this development is to include:

- Residential – up to 3000 homes
- Employment – 100,000 sqm of B1/B2/B8
- Retail – a maximum of 2,500 sqm
- A primary school
- Community uses (eg. health centre) – 1000 sqm
- Sports facilities

The Council has worked closely with the Borough Council to inform this mix (regular liaison meetings are held with RBC), with a focus on the following:

- ensuring that the development provides a significant amount of new employment premises, for the benefits of all City residents and those of Clifton in particular. Within the Council's administrative area Clifton lacks available land for employment development. The Clifton Pastures urban expansion has provided an opportunity to address this constraint.
- ensuring that provision is made to allow an extension of NET line 2 into the heart of the development.
- ensuring that there is only a small 'local need' retail provision, such that the existing District Centre will serve as the primary retail/local services destination for residents within the development.

This scheme is now approved so these aims have been achieved at the outline planning stage. The Council will continue to work with RBC as the detailed proposals emerge. It is understood that Homes England have taken a stake in part of the development, which should help to ensure its timely implementation.

In conclusion, the Council has therefore been successful in taking a comprehensive and holistic approach to ensure that an expanded and strengthened Clifton will be served with new jobs, shops and services for all of its local citizens. We will continue to actively use planning policy and decision making to support the delivery of jobs, shops and services to support new growth, and continue to actively work with RBC as a Joint Planning Advisory Board partner to influence and support the delivery of the important major urban extension to Clifton in Rushcliffe Borough.

This page is intentionally left blank