

Public Document Pack

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Old Market Square

on 9 September 2019 from 2.00 pm - 5.15 pm

ATTENDANCES:

✓ Councillor Rosemary Healy (Lord Mayor)	
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✓ 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 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

32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Merlita Bryan (unwell)
Councillor Eunice Campbell-Clark (unwell)
Councillor Nicola Heaton (personal)
Councillor Phil Jackson (personal)
Councillor Sue Johnson (personal)
Councillor Carole McCulloch (personal)
Councillor Toby Neal (unwell)

Councillor Audra Wynter (unwell)

33 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

34 QUESTIONS FROM CITIZENS

Water usage

CL asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Energy, Environment and Democratic Services:

Whilst the Council is making great steps to become carbon neutral with schemes such as solar panels on operational buildings, what is the Council doing to reduce its water usage? Would it consider installing waterless urinals at all operational buildings saving millions of gallons of water annually, not to mention the revenue savings? A worthy capital expense.

Councillor Sally Longford replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and thank you to the citizen for this interesting question about water usage in the Council, and whether we would consider installing waterless urinals. Water is a vital resource, which needs to be managed carefully. Drinking water has a carbon footprint of approximately 0.6 grams of CO₂ per litre, so water reduction across our estate goes hand in hand with our ambition to become carbon neutral by 2028.

The Council has recently had a water and sewerage self-supply licence approved by the regulator Ofwat and market operator MOSL. We have embarked on this in order to have greater control over our water usage, and to save money for the Council. We will benefit from accurate data on how much water is used at our different sites, and be able to reduce consumption.

We are introducing a Water Efficiency Loan Scheme within the Council, which will fund projects in different departments to introduce water efficiency, and the savings will be used to pay back the loans. The first projects include installing water saving devices in taps, showers and toilets. We are looking at the feasibility of using greywater systems, where wastewater is re-used, as well as looking at rainwater harvesting across Council buildings.

As a member of the Innovation Gateway, the Council has access to trials of innovative technology, and we hope that this will help us to maximise savings in consumption. We will also be launching a behavioural change campaign to encourage staff members to make changes in both their work and personal lives. This includes ensuring bowls are used whilst washing up, taking shorter showers and switching taps off whilst brushing their teeth.

I am afraid I am not an expert in the use of urinals, of any sort, let alone waterless ones. I understand that HSG UK have already installed a system called ureco, a flow-controlling device, at 40 of our highest consuming sites. Although the system is not

waterless it does ensure the urinals now only flush 4 times per day, and it is estimated this saves approximately 300,000 litres of fresh water per year per urinal system. A feasibility study into waterless urinals may well be carried out in due course.

My son lives in Cape Town, where they have suffered from serious drought in the last years, brought about by changing climate and poor management of the water supply. We need to guard against taking the availability of water for granted. As the climate changes, it is likely that we will find ourselves suffering from increasing shortages of water, particularly in the summer, and we should all take responsibility for managing this vital resource effectively, and the City Council will play its part.

Knife crime

MN asked the following question of the Leader:

Given the recent rise in knife crime, is the Leader of the Council able to report on strategies being considered or initiated by the City Council and partner agencies to challenge this very worrying trend?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank the member of the public for this question about knife crime. Crime, or the fear of crime, is one of the most important factors for people having good wellbeing and feeling safe to live, work, and enjoy life in the City. For ten years from 2005 through to 2015, we have seen huge reductions in crime in Nottingham, with partnerships between the Council and the Police. Since then, crime has begun to rise again, as Government cut Police numbers. This is a great concern, and we desperately need to arrest this rise, and not to lose the reductions we have had over the past couple of decades.

Part of the rise is, we have sadly seen a rise in knife crime, as referred to by the questioner. Not just a Nottingham problem, as other cities have also seen a rise in this kind of crime. Nevertheless, a worrying problem. There is concern for our city, and particularly for some of our young people, who feel they need to carry a knife with them in order to feel safe. As part of our manifesto at the recent elections, we committed to work with at least 5000 people each year at risk of becoming involved in gangs or knife crime, or at risk of exploitation. This will become part of the Council Plan for the next four years and has already begun.

Together with our partners, we have introduced a number of initiatives to combat knife crime. These include:

- a partnership strategic board to oversee all projects;
- developing preventative partnerships with the Nottinghamshire University Hospitals;
- involving groups like Red Thread, the Ben Kinsella Trust - who have an exhibition at the Galleries of Justice currently, Street Doctors, and developing bystander care kits with help for immediate response to knife crime in partnership with the BID;

- engagement with both primary and secondary schools, in partnership with the Police, supporting programmes such as Street Aware which is delivered in school assemblies, whole class lessons, and then targeted group work with young people who are of concern;
- setting up a violence and exploitation reduction hub involving members of the Youth Justice Team, Youth Workers, and a Family Support worker. This hub is offering support to secondary schools aimed at preventing exclusions and giving students the information they need to keep themselves safe, as well as again running targeted groups for both young men and young women seen as being on the edge of violence.

We have also changed the focus of the youth and play service, to allow more focused groups in areas of the city where knife crime has sadly happened more regularly. We have also worked with the Police Commissioner, who has recently received short-term money from Government to invest in a partnership violence reduction unit, in order to follow other evidence-based initiatives to prevent knife crime. This includes some funding for the voluntary sector to support other initiatives to prevent violent crime. We have also worked with Probation, to look at initiatives to work with the 18-24 year old age group who are the most likely age group to be both perpetrators and victims of knife crime.

As a result of these and other initiatives, day-to-day work from the Police and Community Protection staff, the rise in knife crime and other violent crime seems to have been halted, and there is some evidence that knife crime has begun to fall slightly. This is very early days for a trend that we hope will continue, but we are not complacent, and we will continue to use every resource and every initiative that we can to address knife crime and violent crime, and the causes of that crime. It is a very important priority for the City Council, and for our partners.

Mobility bus passes

DC asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Local Transport:

In her answer to LS at the 8 July 2019 Council meeting the Portfolio Holder listed communication channels to be used in relation to the review of mobility bus passes. Nearly two months have now passed since that last Full Council meeting and there has not, as far as I can see, been one public communication about the review, either in the local media or on the Council's website, press releases or other communication channels. Due to the obvious delay, can the proposed turnaround schedule announced by the Portfolio Holder in July be extended to mid-November, with the decision announcement to be made in mid-December?

Councillor Adele Williams replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and thank you to the citizen for this question, which relates to the progress of the mobility bus pass review.

You will be aware that the City Council in September 2018 reluctantly withdrew free travel between 11am and 9.30pm for Mobility Pass holders. The decision to stop this

was very difficult; the free travel outside the national statutory hours was withdrawn due to severe budget cuts at that time.

Cardholders have continued to receive the benefits of the national concessionary scheme and in the 11 months since the additional concession was withdrawn the measure has actually saved the Council approximately £250,000. However, in recognition of the concerns raised by citizens, the Council is reviewing the withdrawal of the Mobility Pass concession between 11pm and 9.30am, and I am pleased to announce that a full public consultation on options to reintroduce the concession is starting.

A survey is now available on the Council's website and we would like to hear if this change to services has affected citizens, and to what extent. The survey will be widely advertised as promised, including through emails to 25,000 subscribers in the next few days and social media promotion throughout September and October. We will also be writing to all Mobility Pass holders directly during September and will be contacting a large number of disability representative groups this week, asking for their views.

This will be a difficult decision to make and I really encourage all of the public to participate and make their views known to us during the coming weeks. I have spoken with the campaign; we acknowledge the delay and agree that it is important that we can all be sure that we have run a fair consultation, so we are happy to extend into November as requested. Again, I would like to thank the campaign for their determined and constructive engagement on this issue, and I hope that they will continue to help us to engage with the public around the issues around this pass. We are hoping to get together again soon to discuss the progress of the consultation, and I look forward to working with the group. Thank you.

Station Street crossing

AD asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Local Transport:

Is the Portfolio Holder willing to address the ongoing concern about the lack of a crossing between the station and Loxley House? This is a particular concern of visually impaired people, some of whom refuse to attend meetings at Loxley House because they do not feel safe when crossing the road (Station St/Trent St). A re-consideration would seem to fit with the newly elected Council's manifesto pledge to ensure that public spaces and buildings are easy for disabled people to access and I'd be grateful if the Portfolio Holder would consider reinstalling a recognised crossing point, particularly given the aim of 'Unlocking Loxley' and the re-design of Loxley House as a multi-agency access point ('one-stop shop') for advice and services.

Councillor Adele Williams replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you to the citizen for the question. Back in 2016, following the redesign of the area between Carrington Street and Trent Street, Station Street was transformed from one that was previously traffic-dominated with high speeds, into an area where pedestrians could walk more freely and with greater

priority within an easily accessible paved area. That redevelopment is part of the ongoing Southern Gateway transformation.

To complement those pedestrianisation measures, Station Street was closed to through traffic along its length and wider pavements with carriageways were installed at the junction of Trent Street next to Loxley House to enhance the look and feel of the area and create a low speed environment, aiming for 20mph and below. The idea there was that pedestrians could walk freely taking priority over motorists. This included hazard-warning paving, known as corduroy paving, around the junction and two uncontrolled crossing points with tactile paving in accordance with national guidance to assist mobility-impaired pedestrians to cross.

In 2017, following the closure and demolition of Broadmarsh bus station, National Express coaches were diverted onto Station Street on a temporary basis until the new bus station is completed, and that is expected in 2021. Unfortunately, this resulted in damage being caused to the paving in the carriageway area, which then had to be replaced in the short term with a temporary tarmac surface that we see now, to avoid further damage and costs that might potentially be incurred.

Now unfortunately, what this has meant is that the area looks and feels more like a road again rather than an area where pedestrians should have priority. However, once the National Express coaches are removed, we'll be looking at the design of the area again, the tarmac will be replaced and there will be a redesign with a more suitable material and layout better in keeping with the long-term vision for pedestrianisation within the Southern Gateway.

I am really happy to meet with disability groups to discuss our work going forward, and work with them to help make our city as accessible as possible. I acknowledge the expertise that those groups will bring to the process, and I am really happy to have those discussions in relation to this particular area. So I thank the citizen for raising the question, I think it is an important issue, and I am really happy to have an ongoing dialogue about their thoughts on this area.

Disability access

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

Can the Portfolio Holder report whether the new staffing structure in Building Control has delivered the hoped-for potential to create posts leading to a viable route to develop Access expertise that will meet the newly elected Council's manifesto pledge to ensure that public spaces and buildings are easy for disabled people to access?

Councillor Linda Woodings replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you to the citizen who submitted this question. The restructure of the Building Control Department has only recently been put into place, and in fact is still bedding in. The effectiveness of the new structure will be kept under review, and unfortunately, it still contains a number of vacant posts.

Access advice for people with disabilities and mobility issues is actually now embedded across the whole of the existing team of Building Control Inspectors, each of whom is able to provide advice on access as required under the Building Regulations. That means that there is a pool of expertise available, and that is especially important because the recruitment of experienced building inspectors is currently very challenging. So in order to address that, the new structure includes trainee posts, which may, we hope, provide the potential to develop Access expertise further in the future. Thank you.

35 PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS ON BEHALF OF CITIZENS

Councillor Salma Mumtaz submitted a petition on behalf of residents of Towlsons Croft requesting fencing between Towlsons Croft and David Lane.

36 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2019

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Council held on 8 July 2019 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

37 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2019

The minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on 8 July 2019 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

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

Alison Michalska, Deputy Chief Executive, reported the following:

50 years of friendship between Nottingham and Karlsruhe

In July the City celebrated 50 years of friendship with Karlsruhe in Germany. This milestone was marked by a number of events held in both Nottingham and Karlsruhe. Many of these were organised and hosted by the wider Nottingham community, including the universities and businesses. The City presented Karlsruhe with a gift of the 'Green Man of Sherwood Forest' robin statue.

Gold Leisure Safety Award

The Sport and Leisure Team, which manages the City's eight leisure centres, has been awarded the Gold Leisure Safety Award in recognition of its practices and achievements in ensuring customer safety. The Award was received as part of the 2019 Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents Health and Safety Awards.

Former Councillor Margaret Roberts

It is with sadness that I report the death of former Councillor Margaret Roberts on 15 June. Margaret represented the then Byron Ward between 1974 and 1976.

Councillor David Mellen spoke in tribute to former Councillor Margaret Roberts and a minute's silence was held.

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

None

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

Councillor Allowances

Councillor Kevin Clarke asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

Would the Leader of the Council be willing to sign, as well as encourage his Labour colleagues to sign, a Charter put forward by the Nottingham Independents that redresses the balance between serving ourselves and the people of Nottingham through 'the scrapping of all Special Allowances for Non-Portfolio Holders and a restriction on the salaries of Portfolio Holders that their wage be no more than the median City of Nottingham salary (£23,920 per year [House of Commons Library 2018])?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and can I thank Councillor Clarke for his question. I believe that Nottingham is well served when it has a Council that reflects the people it serves. It is right that members of this Council, who work hard to deliver the ambitious targets for our City, and give considerable time and effort in doing so, receive an allowance. Many of my colleagues in the Chamber will be familiar with Nottingham's reputation at the centre of the Chartist movement in the 19th Century, but it was the people's charter of 1838 that called for payment for members, enabling tradesmen, working men, and other persons of modest means to leave or interrupt their livelihood to attend to the interests of the nation.

Of course, we don't set the Special Responsibility Allowances here in this Chamber, the level of those is set by an Independent Remuneration Panel, who rightly consider the additional time and responsibility the roles bring with them, to decide what level of remuneration that the Councillors should receive to reflect their different roles. Being a Councillor is not just a pastime or a hobby for our members, we are passionate about delivering on promises we have made, and we think that committing our lives to these ambitious targets is worth doing.

Lord Mayor, it is not the remuneration of Councillors which has led to the financial challenges currently facing the Council. We've had years of a Conservative-led government, committed to austerity and reducing local spending, whilst hitting poor communities and big Northern and Midland cities the hardest. So no, I will not be signing the charter introduced by the Nottingham Independents, I do not believe that people are choosing to become Councillors to serve themselves, as the question implies, but to serve the people they represent and the work for the success of our city.

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

Councillor Kevin Clarke asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

Does the Leader of the Council agree with me that the Independent Child Sexual Abuse Inquiry Report damns our organisation, putting it to shame, and that given the Report's findings the Council needs to act immediately to ensure it rectifies the damage – how does he propose doing this?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank Councillor Clarke for this question. It's absolutely right that this is brought to Council today, following the publishing of the report at the end of July. The publishing of the interim report to the Independent Inquiry into Historical Child Abuse was not a good day for Nottingham, as it confirmed the things that came out in the Inquiry hearing last year that young people in the past and a few more recently had been let down by those responsible for caring for them.

I am grateful for the opportunity to repeat our apology to all those who were let down by this Council, when we should have been protecting them. I'd like to say, once again, that we are very sorry for what happened to you, and although we sadly cannot change what has happened in the past, we will redouble our efforts to ensure that children in the care of this local authority now are kept safe, and supported to thrive in care, learning the lessons from the past.

As a Council we will continue to listen to survivors of abuse, and support those who have to live with what happened to them in the past. Lord Mayor, we fully cooperated with the IICSA Inquiry, submitting lots of written evidence, and a number of officers, both past and present, as well as myself as the then Portfolio Holder, gave all evidence to the Inquiry when it sat in October last year.

The Inquiry continues, focusing on other areas of the country, and the report published recently focused just on what has happened in care homes and foster homes in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham. Much of the criticism in this report concerns the former Beechwood Children's Home on Woodborough Road, which was the responsibility of Nottinghamshire County Council for much of its life, and passed over to us at the City Council in 1998 when we became a Unitary Authority. We closed it in 2006, which in hindsight was too late.

Further criticism referred to weaknesses in foster care, and the way that the allegations of harmful sexual abuse between young people is reported. We are carefully considering the report's findings, and an action plan is being compiled. This plan builds on improvements in arrangements for the care of children which have been made since most of the incidents described in the report took place. For example – none of our homes are run like Beechwood, not in size and not in the manner in which they are run, whereas in the past children's homes were often large and institutional, we have closed all such homes, and our current children's homes are now smaller family units with a maximum of four young people living in each. They are inspected locally on a monthly basis, and at least twice a year by Ofsted,

with all but one of the homes currently being rated as either Good or Outstanding by Ofsted.

We have worked to ensure that children in foster care are, wherever possible, placed within 20 miles of Nottingham. That is not possible for all of our children in care, because some of them need to be further away from their birth family because of the danger they are in, but at least 85% of our children are placed within that distance. We have increased the number of foster carers that work for the City Council rather than for agencies. Many other improvements have been made, but that does not make us in any sense complacent, and we will respond to the recommendations made by the IICSA Inquiry, and do everything we can to improve the care we give to children looked after by the City Council.

The two recommendations for action from the interim report are that we should assess the risk to children of current and former foster carers in relation to the sexual abuse of children, and that we commission an independent review into approaches of dealing with harmful sexual behaviour between young people. We will respond fully to these recommendations, and our action plan will be completed and presented to appropriate Council committees in due course, and shared with our safeguarding partners to ensure their commitment to the action plan. We will also continue to cooperate with Nottinghamshire Police, with their ongoing Police investigations, and will continue to help survivors who want to make civil claims, and work with the Nottingham Clinical Commissioning Partnership to give appropriate support to survivors. The safety of children and young people in the care of the City is, and always will be, our highest priority.

Labour stall at Clifton Fun Day

Councillor Maria Watson asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

Does the Leader of the Council agree with me that it was highly inappropriate and unwarranted for Nottingham Labour to set up a politically charged campaign stall at the Council-funded Clifton Fun Day, an event which was designed to give toddlers, infants and young children a safe space to play, and that the intrusive presence of a political organisation was an affront to the purpose of this event?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and can I thank Councillor Watson for her question. The Clifton Picnic in the Park event was held on Tuesday 13 August, on a sunny day, at the Clifton playing fields on Farnborough Road. I was pleased to attend the event briefly, along with a Councillor from Birmingham who was visiting Nottingham that day, other Councillors including Councillor Longford, and the Member of Parliament for Clifton who also attended, along with Councillor Watson and Councillor Clarke in their roles as local Councillors.

The Labour Party stall was booked through a member of the Labour Party living in Clifton, and paid for out of Labour Party funds. The event this year was entitled "Explore the World", and it was recognised by the planning group that bringing together a multitude of partners who promote the wide range of information and

services to local residents was of huge benefit to all concerned. Yes, there were events there for children, but for adults and older people too.

Fitting in with the event's theme, the Nottingham Labour stall was an information stall, where the Member of Parliament, ourselves as Councillors and others who are responsible for providing services to meet the needs of the community were engaging with local residents, hearing their issues and concerns and providing updates on what the Council was doing. All the stall had was some branding, a survey about what local people want information about, such as welfare rights, energy services, Robin Hood Energy, plus some other useful context to help people in Clifton. They were also handing out ice lollies to local children and their families, hardly an intrusive presence as Councillor Watson alleges, but something which was actually appreciated on a warm day.

Residents were pleased to see us, and engaged in good conversations. I do not see the issue of a political party booking a stall at a community event through a Neighbourhood Development Officer. I do not see how the presence of a political party impedes people enjoying their day. If people wanted to approach the stall they could, and they did. If they didn't want to see us, they could walk on by, that was absolutely fine. The implication that Labour Councillors, who shape the services delivered to Clifton residents, and the local MP who has represented the area for more than 9 years are not welcome at such events is ridiculous.

Water safety

Councillor Kirsty Jones asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and IT:

I am sure I speak on behalf of every councillor, and for the Council as a whole, when I offer my condolences to the family of the young man who sadly died whilst swimming in the River Trent on 26 August. In light of these tragic events, does the Portfolio Holder agree with me that the Council needs to step up its preventative approach to water safety, championing a multi-government agency approach across the City to discourage people from swimming in our open waters?

Councillor David Trimble replied as follows:

Thank you for your question. It is indeed a tragic incident and I share your condolences for the young man who sadly died on the River Trent on 26 August, as I'm sure everyone in this Chamber does, and the Council as a whole. I also thank those members of the public who tried to help, as well as the emergency services that were there in high numbers too.

A preventive approach is informed by the Nottingham Water Safety Partnership, which includes the Council's Public Realm Team, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, and Colwick Park lifeguards. We also work with RoSPA: The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, to inform our work too. That said, guidelines must never be set in stone, we must always continue to learn and improve.

There are around 28 life buoys on both banks of the river, and they were inspected on a weekly basis, but we are now inspecting them three times per week. New "no

swimming” signage has also been ordered, however, it is an ongoing challenge as sometimes life buoys are stolen, vandalised, or even thrown into the river. It’s an absolute mindless act by very stupid people. It is a criminal offence under the 1971 Criminal Damages Act, and can result in a £5,000 fine and/or imprisonment.

The Public Realm Team has arranged a meeting to further review procedures with the Nottingham Water Safety Partnership to discuss what additional steps can be taken to proactively educate and inform the public about the dangers of open water swimming in and around the County.

Lord Mayor, if I can just make a heartfelt plea to people in this city, to not swim in dangerous open water, unless they are taking part in safe, organised and lifeguarded sessions. For anyone that wants to do this, they can do it in organised sessions run by the Council, at Westlake at Colwick Country Park, and it’s lifeguarded by the Colwick Lifesavers. So they can do it safely if they must do it, they must do it that way. Lord Mayor, can I just close by once again offering my sincere condolences to the family of the young man who sadly lost his life on that very tragic day.

Nottingham’s Kashmiri community

Councillor Salma Mumtaz asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

Can the Leader of the Council inform the Council what correspondence they have had with the Government regarding Kashmir and what assurances can he give to Nottingham’s Kashmir community that action is being taken to ensure their friends and family are safe?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and can I thank Councillor Mumtaz for her question; an issue I know which is important to you and many people in this city. Thank you also for your work in raising this issue in the city, working with Councillor Mohammed to organise the vigil at the Brian Clough statue which, alongside other Councillors, I attended.

Nottingham is a multicultural and diverse city, one of our strengths. We have people living in this city whose families have originated from the Caribbean, from India, from Pakistan, from Eastern Europe, from parts of the African continent, and many other places. When friends and family in home countries are in danger, it is natural that there are high levels of concern.

Nottingham has a large community with Kashmiri heritage, with many having friends or family currently living in or visiting Kashmir. The Kashmiri community has contributed greatly to Nottingham, and it’s completely natural that they, and others, are rightly anxious about the threat to peace and security in the region of Kashmir, and the safety of people there. We at Nottingham City Council stand with the Nottingham Kashmiri community at this time of anger and anxiety about the abuse, violence and exploitation which is happening in your home land.

In August, the Indian Home Minister, Amit Shah, revoked Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, stripping Jammu and Kashmir states of their special status which gave

them autonomy. This unilateral action is completely unjustified. Shortly after this, I wrote to the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, expressing my concern about the situation, and asking what the British Government is doing about it. Unfortunately, I have yet to receive a reply to my letter to the Foreign Secretary. Nottingham South MP Lillian Greenwood has also written to the Foreign Secretary, and just last week she presented a petition along with her constituents to 10 Downing Street, calling on the Government to do what it can, including using its leverage as a United Nations member, to help ensure peace is restored.

Reports of violations of human rights and reports of violations of the conventions on cluster munitions continue though, as has been raised by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Kashmir. The High Commissioner of Pakistan, Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, at a recent closed meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Kashmir reported to MPs about the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Jammu and Kashmir. There have been numerous international resolutions calling for a peaceful way of settling this dispute over Kashmir, and this is surely the right way to go about resolving the situation.

The community cohesion which we enjoy in Nottingham has been hard-won, and it is vital to our prosperity. That is why we should do all we can to maintain and promote community engagement, a sense of belonging, and pride in Nottingham, whilst at the same time arguing for an end to the violence in Kashmir. As the Leader of the Council, I will continue to urge those in our Government to use the channels available to them to put pressure on the Indian government to stop their violence, and to re-instate autonomy for Kashmir.

Children's Services funding

Councillor Chantal Lee asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People:

Does the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People share my distress about the recent Local Government Act (LGA) report of a £800 million shortfall in children's services and does she agree that the Chancellor's Spending Round offered no solutions?

Councillor Cheryl Barnard replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and thank you Councillor Lee for raising this issue today. The Local Government Association (LGA), and the Association of Director of Children's Services (ADCS), have lobbied Government, in particular the Department for Education and the Treasury for a number of years, in an attempt to address the woeful underfunding of children's services. The LGA and the ADCS calculated that the money needed to address the gap in funding for children and families to be in excess of £2 billion if we as a society want to begin to redress the problems faced by one third of children nationally who are living in poverty. The £800,000,000 shortfall in children's social care is merely part of the picture.

I'm saddened to report that our city has the 4th highest levels of child and family poverty in England. In addition to families affected by unemployment, increasingly in-

work poverty is an issue for households in the City, with many struggling to cope and seeking help and support. It's in this environment that the demand for the Council's children's services is increasing, and the disparity between the needs in our communities and the funding we receive from Government grows larger.

We've worked hard to protect services for children and families in the City. As an Early Intervention City, we firmly believe that prevention is vital to stop needs escalating. Despite this, we've had to make some tough choices. Since 2016, the budget for Children's Services has reduced by over £4,310,000, and faces more cuts in the next budget. Nationally, a key driver for the pressures faced by Children's Services is the increased number and costs of children in care. In Nottingham, we've worked hard to introduce services that avoid the need for children to come into care and also to significantly increase the numbers of City Council foster carers. Wherever possible, our focus is to support families to make positive changes so that they can care for their children at home. Ofsted have commented positively on the quality of these services and, against a national upward trend, we've managed to stabilise the rate of children in care in Nottingham when you compare us to other similar authorities.

Earlier this week, the Chancellor announced an additional £1 billion of funding for children's and adults' social care - to 'support local authorities to meet rising demand and continue to stabilise the social care system'. Whilst we welcome the recognition that investment is needed, when the LGA predicts a shortfall in the children's system alone next year of £1.4bn, the commitments in the Spending Review are way short of what is really required to balance the books. There is no indication of how the £1 billion will be divided between children and adults services. With growing pressures to support children, families and older people it is inevitable that this will fall short of what's really needed to deliver good services and to protect the most vulnerable in our communities. The Chancellor announced an additional £1 billion for social care, and whilst this is welcome, it is to be thinly spread across both children and adult social care, and as yet we do not know what proportion will be for children, nor what it means for Nottingham children. What I'm confident in knowing is that it won't begin to be enough, so I agree with you Councillor Lee, it doesn't offer any solutions at the current time.

Council house building

Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Heritage and Planning:

Can the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Heritage agree that the best way to celebrate 100 years of council housing is for Nottingham to continue its ambitious council house building programme?

Councillor Linda Woodings replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and thank you to Councillor Quddoos for this question. I agree wholeheartedly with you that the best way for us to celebrate and honour 100 years of council housing is for us to continue to build new affordable homes, particularly as so many people are in need. Rising rent costs and the effect of

Government benefit reforms have led to a large increase in people on the housing waiting list. This has doubled in the last 4 years to 8,500, with over 1,000 people joining the waiting list last year alone.

And so, we are seeing significant housing challenges in Nottingham, reflecting the wider crisis across the whole country. Like most cities, we are also seeing increased homelessness, and so now, as much as ever, we need more council housing. Unfortunately, the damaging continued effects of Right to Buy is reducing the number of affordable homes available to people, while the effects of the government's austerity policies and the national housing shortage have put more and more people in need.

Our ambitious programme for new build demonstrated by Nottingham City Council's commitment to provide quality new homes to meet the needs of local people and to ensure that Nottingham remains a great place to live and work. Over the last four years of office, the Labour Council built 2,293 affordable homes, all of which were affordable for Nottingham people to rent or buy. Over the next four years we will build or buy 1,000 more Council and social homes for rent and we will enable a further 3,000 homes to be built by developers. We have called upon Government to support us in our ambitious work in this area by properly funding our ability to build by challenging the restrictive rules around the use of receipts from right to buy sales and by providing funding programmes that work for the whole country rather than just the extreme case in the South East of England.

The 100th Anniversary of Council housing represents a really important part of Nottingham's history and the Council has been proud to mark and celebrate it in a number of ways. Council housing began to be developed 100 years ago following the Great War, which we now call the First World War, when there was a high demand for better quality housing amongst the returning soldiers. Prime Minister Lloyd George promised 'Homes Fit for Heroes' and passed a bill that was commonly known as the Addison Act. In Nottingham, the local Council seized on the opportunity, and immediately started a programme of building, which eventually led to 17,000 homes being built up to 1939. The first Council estate completed in Nottingham was in my own ward of Basford: the Stockhill estate. I'm delighted that as part of the centenary celebrations, I, along with my fellow Councillors and the local tenants and residents and the MP for Nottingham North, Alex Norris, unveiled a blue plaque on 25 August, alongside a whole day of fun free activities for residents on Stockhill Park.

Demand was still great after the Second World War for housing, so other new estates were built to meet the growing need for homes, including Bilborough and Clifton. This continued with slum clearance initiatives in the 1960s leading to a range of high-rise council housing and later low-rise homes in the 1970s. That period also included the expansion of St Anns and the Meadows estates. By 1980 half of the city's population lived in Council housing. During that period funding for new council housing was dramatically cut back. Although the Council was involved in some rebuilding work in that period, such as rebuilding some of the very popular 1940s prefab homes in brick, the lack of funding meant that the provision of new Council housing was very limited. On top of that, the introduction of large Right to Buy discounts led to a great decline in Council housing and by 2005, 40% of all the council houses in Nottingham had been sold.

The legacy of Right to Buy, as I've told you many times in this Chamber, is still affecting us to this day, and the rates of right to buy have increased dramatically in recent years. In 2017-18 we lost 438 homes to the Right to Buy scheme, which is more than one a day. 40% of Right to Buy homes are now, we estimate, in the hands of private landlords, not now occupied by the people who bought them as their lifetime home.

Clearly, Nottingham's council housing story is an important part of our city's past, but it is also an important part of its present and its future. Affordable, good quality council housing is as important now as it was a hundred years ago, with growing demand as the cost of renting or buying privately soars. That remains a priority for the City Council and our Arms Length Management Organisation: Nottingham City Homes, so together we continue to build new homes and improve existing ones as well to ensure tenants are happy.

As part of the celebrations for 100 years of council housing there are a range of events of which the new Stockhill Lane plaque was just one. We have also updated and re-issued the book "Homes and Place: A History of Nottingham's Council Houses", which I would recommend to anyone interested in this topic. It is actually available to download for free from the Nottingham City Homes website or it can be bought from local bookshops. And there is also a little commemorative leaflet that has been produced which will be available at all the local community events, and we've got an exhibition as well touring libraries and community centres in the City – today that is available on the first floor of the Central Library. Also as part of the celebrations we are having a commemorative mural painted in the Meadows, over 100 new trees are being planted on Nottingham estates across the city on sites that have been chosen by residents and we have also buried a time capsule at the Winwood Extra Care facility after working with local school children to decide on the contents.

And that brings me back to the question, because it was just last week that we buried this capsule as part of the opening of a brand new 44 room extra care facility in Sherwood at Winwood House. This fantastic facility as well as providing high quality, warm and affordable homes for older people in Nottingham will also help people to live independently for longer, as long as they choose to do so. Over the last few years the Council has built over 500 new homes since some of the barriers to our building were lifted, and it's been great to see the high quality homes and neighbourhoods that the Council and Nottingham City Homes have created together, providing places where people really do want to live and work. It's the most desirable form of housing in the city, council housing. In my role as Portfolio Holder, I've been able to meet tenants of our new build houses and see the massive difference it's made to their quality of life.

So our council housing programme is continuing with hundreds more homes either on site now or in the pipeline and we are also buying good value second hand homes to increase our Council housing stock. Right now we are on site delivering new homes at the Marlstones site in Bulwell, the Clifton Miners Welfare site in the Meadows, and the Knights Close site in Top Valley. We are also designing large new council housing developments at sites such as Eastglade in Top Valley and Beckhampton Road on the Bestwood Estate. Thank you.

EU exit preparations

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

The Government's own no deal Brexit assessment set out in the Operation Yellowhammer report warns of potential food, fuel and medicine shortages. Can the Portfolio Holder tell Council what risks a no deal Brexit poses for Nottingham?

Councillor Sally Longford replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and thank you Councillor Dinnall for your question. I'm hoping that a No Deal exit from the EU can be avoided, and that any departure will be delayed in order for us to provide a more stable path to our future relationship with our most important trading partners. I'm very frustrated with the current Government's flippant attitude, which suggests that a No Deal Brexit would cause "bumps in the road". It strikes me that if you're driving a Bentley, you'd hardly notice a bump in the road, it's a bit different if you're driving a car that's only just scraped through its MOT.

The Council has a governance structure in place that includes Brexit leads in all departments who have reviewed the risks to services and council projects. We also play our part in the Local Resilience Forum, and it's important to note that Nottingham is not expected to be differently affected from any other local authority. The Government's reasonable worst case scenarios, which are not predictions, but potential outcomes that are being planned for, have been examined in detail. The Government assessment highlights potential disruption to supply chains due to delays at the point of entry.

For food, the assessment states that there will be no overall shortage of food, but there could be a reduction in choice, particularly for fresh fruit and vegetables, many of which are imported through the port of Dover. There is a possibility of an increase in prices, that will disproportionately affect our low income households. In Nottingham, plans are in place to ensure the impact on school catering is mitigated through the stockpiling of non-perishable goods, and alternative menus based on what is available are being prepared. Similar mitigations are in place for our Meals at Home service, which provides for vulnerable people in their homes.

We are maintaining our maximum fuel storage capacity, which will allow continuation of Council services for up to three weeks. Plans are in place across the Council that identify priority users, and the services that may need access to these reserves should they arise. In extreme circumstances, there is a national fuel plan. As far as medicines are concerned, the NHS in England is responsible, and they tell us that needs will be met. Our social care and health teams will work closely together to identify issues and solutions where necessary.

The Audit Committee discussed a report in January 2019 which outlined the risks and mitigations, and these have been under continual review ever since. There are risks associated with finance, based on the increased cost of borrowing, the weakening pound, and inflation. This will be monitored, and potential impacts would be the increased cost of service delivery and budgetary issues. As if we're not under enough

pressure as it is. There may be difficulties in maintaining the workforce, especially in health and social care. Although there is very little reliance on EU workers across the Council, historical issues of recruitment and retention within the sector could be exacerbated. Internally, a recruitment campaign is ongoing, and we are in regular contact with commissioned providers to assess issues. Providers may also have some pressure from inflationary cost increases, which will be monitored and reviewed.

Civil disobedience and unrest, which have been highlighted nationally as a potential issue, have been reviewed locally. The Council and partners will respond in the usual way to events if they occur. It is our high priority to maintain community cohesion. Many of these risks will manifest themselves over time, allowing for assessment and a stepped response. Any issues that require a multi—agency and immediate response will be picked up through the normal emergency planning arrangements and the Local Resilience Forum, which includes representatives from all major public bodies, including health services, emergency services, and neighbouring authorities. Thank you.

Governance arrangements of council-owned companies

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

The Leader of the Council will recall that prior to the election discussions were ongoing regarding the formation of a new committee to oversee the governance arrangements of council wholly owned and majority owned companies. Can he update the Chamber on what progress has been made with this to date?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and can I thank Councillor Rule for his question. I can confirm that the Director of Legal and Governance is currently undertaking a review of existing company governance arrangements for wholly owned and majority owned companies. As part and parcel of this review, I have asked that clear options be put forward regarding future governance arrangements. Once the review is complete, it will be considered by the relevant Portfolio Holder, Councillor Webster, and myself, with recommendations going forward for decision in the usual way. Thank you.

Clifton market cleansing

Councillor Andrew Rule asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Communities:

What impact does the Portfolio Holder believe that there will be as a result of the Council's decision to reduce cleansing services in the area occupied by Clifton Market on the Council's chances of attracting further Central Government investment into the Clifton shopping precinct?

Councillor Rebecca Langton replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and can I thank Councillor Rule for his question. There has been no decision to reduce cleansing standards in the area occupied by Clifton Market, or indeed any other part of the city. On the contrary: in the election manifesto for this year, which has now been adopted as the Council's work plan, one of our top five pledges was to make Nottingham the cleanest city in the country, and to ensure that our neighbourhoods are as clean as the city centre. Clean streets and town centres that local people can be proud of are at the heart of safe and resilient communities. So we continue to work hard to deliver grade A standard cleansing across our city centre, town centres, and neighbourhood streets.

Last year we integrated the cleansing and ground maintenance services. This means that these services are now more agile and flexible, but they're also under considerable pressure, given the demands they face and the standards we all expect in our neighbourhoods. In the face of unrelenting pressure on Council budgets, the Public Realm Services keep looking for ways to be more efficient and to deliver more, as well as making effective use of their fleet. Much of the old fleet has now been replaced with new environmentally friendly vehicles which are also much more reliable, but we do have fewer vehicles to work with. As with any changes, it can take a little time and effort to get things right, so whilst I am confident that our standards remain high, I do accept that there is room for improvement, and I have been discussing this with our Public Realm colleagues.

Any Councillor who is concerned about public realm standards in their ward should first raise these concerns with their Neighbourhood Operations Manager (NOM). NOMs are responsible for deploying resources locally to ensure the best possible cleansing and public realm standards are maintained. I can also assure Councillor Rule that I will personally visit Clifton Market next week as part of one of my regular spot checks across our neighbourhoods. Councillor Rule would be welcome to join me on this visit, and I would encourage him to raise any specific concerns with me directly. The same applies to all Council colleagues.

Although as Portfolio Holder, I'm committed to ensuring our communities are safe and clean and maintained to the highest standards, Councillor Rule knows full well the reality of the situation we are in as a Council. In the last five years, Conservative Government funding cuts have meant that we have had to reduce what we spend on street cleaning by more than a quarter. That means fewer staff, fewer street sweepers, and fewer opportunities to innovate. So there's something of an irony in this question. Whilst we will continue to do all we can to attract government funding, as well as maintaining high standards of cleansing, the best way we can ensure that we do this is with adequate and fair funding from the Conservative Government. We want the Government to work with us, not against us, to deliver for our communities. And if Councillor Rule is as concerned about maintaining these standards as we are, perhaps this year he will join us in calling on the Government to properly fund our Council.

Under Nottingham Labour, Nottingham City Council has delivered consistent and sustained investment in Clifton. This has included, but is not limited to:

- long-awaited A453 improvements to give easy access to the M1 and reduce congestion in Clifton;
- £15million worth of investment in the Clifton Triangle development; creating 130 new jobs and delivering popular low cost local shopping options;

- £500,000 invested in Clifton town centre to improve pedestrian and shopping areas;
- the Clifton Cornerstone joint service centre;
- investment in and expansion of popular local primary and secondary schools;
- more than £30 million invested in Clifton houses through the decent homes programme, as well as more than 2,000 homes insulated, new Council housing on Eddleston Drive, Meadowvale Crescent, Middlefell Way and many more, amounting to millions of pounds of investment,;
- £85,000 invested in Clifton Flower Park;
- and not to mention the many millions of pounds as well as other associated benefits of bringing the tram to Clifton.

Lord Mayor, while I am new to this Chamber, I cannot take credit for this work. I am proud of the legacy of investment in Clifton that Nottingham Labour has to this point. My Portfolio includes responsibility for neighbourhood regeneration, and I look forward to continuing this commitment to investing in all our communities, including Clifton.

I assume that Councillor Rule is referring in his question to the Future High Street bid that we have submitted for Clifton, in which the City Council was unsuccessful. This bid intended to do further work to link up Clifton Triangle, bringing together the main shopping precinct, the market, and the newer shops on Green Lane. We always knew this bid was something of a long shot, as one of the eligibility criteria was of low occupancy rates. In Clifton, it is a credit to our local investment that there are no vacant shops on the main shopping precinct. So whilst I'm disappointed that we didn't get that money, it wasn't necessarily a big surprise. Nevertheless, we continue to look for opportunities for investment and improvement in Clifton. For example, we've recently submitted a bid for £150,000 to the Local Growth Fund. If successful, this money would go towards transforming the library frontage, including a new café and landscape improvements. We will find out if we've been successful at the end of this month. In addition, the Neighbourhood Investment Team continues to apply for Central Government Funding as soon as any pots are announced.

Lord Mayor, Nottingham Labour is committed to investing in all of our communities, and we want to work with the Government to do this. Finally, Lord Mayor, it wouldn't be possible to maintain high standards on our streets without the hard work of Council colleagues, so I want to take a moment to reflect on their contributions to Clifton, and to our city. In my first few months as Portfolio Holder, I have been out on the front line with our refuse collectors and our Streetscene Team. The people I have spent time with take great pride in the work that they do. They work hard, and they share our commitment to delivering clean communities under ever increasing pressures. They face many challenges in the work they do, day in, day out, and I would like to personally thank and pay credit to those Council staff who are on the front line, whatever the weather, whatever the challenge. The people I know, both from spending time on the front line, and as a ward councillor, are committed, resilient, and proud to work for Nottingham City. They don't get everything right, but I am confident that they understand the value of the work they do. I'm sure every member in this Chamber will join me in thanking our front line staff for their hard work.

Robin Hood Energy funding

Councillor Andrew Rule asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Growth, and the City Centre:

In light of Robin Hood Energy's recent generosity in donating 300 oak trees to the City Council and funding the Rainbow Road in the City Centre, is the Portfolio Holder satisfied that the Company is now generating a profit and will require no further capital injections from the Council?

Councillor Sam Webster replied as follows:

Sure Lord Mayor. Mighty oaks, Councillor Rule, mighty oaks from little acorns grow. That's our view on the Labour benches anyway. This question is a good precursor to the motion that I'll be proposing to Council later this afternoon, where I will be focusing on our proud history in Nottingham of public ownership, of delivering public services in-house, of creating and maintaining local jobs for local people, and of resisting the continual pressures of Conservative Councillors and Conservative Governments to outsource, to sell off Nottingham's assets to profit-making big businesses, and to outsource services and staff to the cheapest bidder.

There are very clear differences to our approaches, and as Councillor Rule knows, the people of Nottingham once again made their democratic choice just a few short months ago in the local elections. At those elections, a third of Conservative Councillors lost their seats, and were replaced by Labour Councillors. I politely suggest that an urgent review is required of your party's standpoint on adequately funding local services which Councillor Langton was just referring to, supporting non-profit and public ownership models as we do, and frankly, backing Nottingham rather than knocking Nottingham.

To answer the specific points in your question. What else would you expect in Nottingham, the home of Robin Hood? I think the team at Robin Hood Energy made a good call investing in the sapling oaks to further green our city, to donate to the schools our children go to, the open spaces we all enjoy, and to the community groups we all work with and support. It helps to highlight what we're doing here in Nottingham. As the Deputy Leader regularly points out, under Labour, as a City we've pledged to the people that we will go green, and Robin Hood Energy is helping in our mission to rapidly reduce emissions and improve air quality. So yes, I am fully supportive of three hundred young oak trees, and of the 100% green electricity that Robin Hood Energy supplies, and I know that on the Labour benches we're fully supportive also of Robin Hood Energy sponsorship of the extremely popular Rainbow Road in Hockley: a very worthwhile sponsorship in my view.

You asked me about Robin Hood Energy's performance at the last Council meeting too Councillor Rule, but I'm more than happy to reiterate that the Council invests based on a business case, as you would expect. As I previously said, if we decide to invest further in Robin Hood Energy, a company that the City Council on behalf of the people of Nottingham owns outright, to support more growth or acquisitions, he will be one of the first to know. Young businesses, just like young oak trees, often need a bit of support, a bit of nurture, and a bit of time to grow big and strong. Thank you.

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

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

Prior to the publication of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) report the Leader of the Council was reluctant to establish a committee to examine the findings of the report, together with the implementation of any recommendations from it. Given the report was critical of the City Council's engagement with survivors will he now commit to establishing such a committee?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thanks Lord Mayor, and thank you to Councillor Rule for this question. Following recommendations from the Ofsted report of Children's Services in 2014, a separate Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee was established, so that matters involving children and young people could have sufficient examination and discussion. This new committee has worked well, and given due priority for these matters. And it is appropriate that the IICSA report and action plan will be reported to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee this month, following the report to Executive Board in a couple of weeks' time. There is also a plan for the report to go to Audit Committee at the end of the month. With this level of scrutiny, I do not believe it is appropriate or necessary for an extra body to be established as requested.

Officers, including our Chief Executive are involved in regular meetings with the Survivors Support Group. The City Council has been meeting with this Group since May 2016 when we were invited to join the meetings. Our Director of Children's Services and other senior colleagues have met with individual survivors when they or their representatives have requested this. This is not a new development and both individual and group meetings have taken place over a number of years. With our partners in Nottinghamshire Police, the County Council and the Clinical Commissioning Partnership, we have worked with survivors to co-produce an information leaflet to help advise and signpost people to the right support. This is available on-line and copies distributed to places where survivors might go to receive help including GP surgeries, libraries and our Joint Service Centres. Whilst some survivors engage in the Survivors Support Group, others prefer not to, so retaining the opportunity to have individual conversations with Council officers as the need arises is also important.

I am pleased to report that the City Council is fully engaged with a piece of research commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and NHS England to deliver a comprehensive child sexual abuse and sexual violence economic, health and social needs assessment for Nottinghamshire. Lime Culture CIC, a national sexual violence training and consultancy organisation with a strong track record of victim and survivor engagement is undertaking this work which includes a series of focus groups with victims and survivors and separately with professionals who are working with survivors. The resultant needs assessment will provide all commissioners in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, including the City Council, with a solid evidence base for future services and we shall use this to ensure

that we and our partners continue to commission and provide the right support for survivors.

41 DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES

Councillor David Mellen, 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) the urgent decisions (exempt from call in):

Decision Reference Number	Date of Decision	Subject	Value of Decision	Reasons for Urgency
3564	26 June 2019	Property Investment Disposal	Exempt	The timescale agreed with the purchaser had to be met to secure the capital receipt. A delay may have resulted in the purchaser pulling out of the deal, which would have had significant financial consequences for the Council. The capital receipt would have been put at risk and, as part of the sale, the letting of a large vacant part of the property was put on hold which led to the prospective tenant seeking alternative accommodation.
3565	26 June 2019	Works to be undertaken at Dolomite Avenue, Coventry Business Park, Coventry, CV5 6UE	Exempt	A delay may have meant the loss of the tenant and rent, which would have meant that the Council had no rent coming in but would have still had incurred running costs such as rates on a void property.

(2) there were no decisions taken under the Special Urgency Procedure to be reported.

42 NON EXECUTIVE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Councillor Steve Battlemuch, Chair of the Audit Committee, presented the report proposing non-executive amendments to the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED to

- (1) amend Part 1 of the Constitution as detailed in appendix A of the report;**
- (2) amend Delegation 155 within the Scheme of Delegation as detailed in appendix B of the report;**
- (3) amend the Access to Information Procedure Rules as detailed in appendix C of the report;**
- (4) amend the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules as detailed in appendix D of the report;**
- (5) adopt a revised Standing Orders as detailed in appendix E of the report;**
- (6) amend the Councillor and Co-opted Member Codes of Conduct as detailed in appendix F of the report; and**
- (7) note that the Members Allowances Scheme was updated in Version 7.27 of the Constitution to reflect changes to the levels of the basic allowance and special responsibility allowances.**

43 MOTION

Motion proposed by Councillor Georgia Power, seconded by Councillor Salma Mumtaz:

Food poverty in the UK is a growing issue with the Trussell Trust issuing a record 1.6 million foodbank parcels in 2018/19, a 75% increase compared to five years ago. In the East Midlands 75,659 people received foodbank parcels during that period. Food banks in Nottingham see many issues including debt, money management and mental health. Welfare changes and stagnant wages are two of the many reasons however, meaning people do not have enough money to pay for the essentials. In Nottingham, food poverty amongst children is a particular concern especially during the school holidays.

A small scale operation was trialled last year over 3 weeks that helped provide 600 lunches per week to children at activities across the City. This provision is essential and, for some children, it was the first food they had had on the day. This year thanks to the commitment of dozens of volunteers the Council was able to expand this. More still needs to be done though with nearly 25,148 children in Nottingham at risk of falling into holiday hunger during the summer holidays according to End Child Poverty.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- support the work of foodbanks across the City and work to ensure they are sustainable where appropriate;
- support social eating schemes such as the Bestop Kitchen at Bestwood Park Church and Parkgate in Clifton and advertise existing schemes through AskLion;
- promote welfare rights and employment services to help tackle causes of poverty;
- introduce Community Surgeries, bringing together a range of services and agencies to support local residents like the ones that have been piloted at Bestwood Park Church. Following the success of this scheme we will roll out the scheme to food banks across the City, where they are wanted and needed;
- thank all volunteers of food banks for the support they provide to some of Nottingham's most in need;
- tackle holiday hunger by supporting school holiday lunch clubs in our most deprived neighbourhoods and campaign to extend free school meals to all primary school children by 2025;
- thank all the volunteers and organisers for their work on the holiday hunger project over the summer holidays;
- continue to campaign against Government cuts which have led to an increase in the number of Nottingham citizens requiring a food bank voucher.

RESOLVED to carry the motion.

44 MOTION

Motion proposed by Councillor Sam Webster, seconded by Councillor Pavlos Kotsonis:

This Council believes that public services should be delivered by public servants for the public good where possible. Putting public service first improves local services, saves local tax payers money and increases democratic accountability.

Nottingham has a proud history of public ownership and public service. From buses to street cleansing, sustainable energy generation to school dinners, we've led on public service.

The Council welcomes the publication of The Labour Party's '*Democratising Local Public Services: A Plan for Twenty-First Century Insourcing*' which provides a plan to roll back decades of orthodoxy that has seen many local councils forced into outsourcing the delivery of key public services to profit making private companies.

This Council resolves to promote and prioritise public ownership, public service delivery and public accountability.

RESOLVED to carry the motion.

45 MEMBERSHIP CHANGE

The following committee membership change was noted:

- (1) Councillor Leslie Ayoola has been appointed to replace Councillor Audrey Dinnall as a member of the Planning Committee.

The Meeting concluded at 5.15 pm

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Responses to Questions Requiring a Written Response

WQ1

WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR LEISURE, CULTURE AND IT AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2019

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm what consultation has been carried out with the relatives of those buried at Wilford Hill Cemetery prior to allowing areas of cemetery to become overgrown to promote biodiversity; and does he feel that this shows sufficient respect to those relatives whose family members are buried at the cemetery?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and IT:

Thank you for your question regarding the above.

As a Council, we have for many years taken a national lead on environmental issues. Back in 2011, the Council adopted an updated Biodiversity Position Statement that set out a policy in response to the Biodiversity Statutory Duty (Defra 2007).

Our Biodiversity Statement sets out four key policy objectives:

1. **Make consideration towards biodiversity within all functions of the Council**
Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 'Biodiversity Duty'. Guidance available in 'Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty' (Defra 2007).
2. **Promote and encourage the incorporation of biodiversity enhancements into the overall design of new developments and open spaces**
Planning Policy Statement 9: Geological and Biological Conservation has principles stating there should be no net loss of biodiversity through development and that opportunities for enhancement should be pursued.
3. **Maximise opportunities for biodiversity gain through Council-wide initiatives**
Consider all Council departments.
4. **Ensure protection is given to key species and habitats**
Safeguarding of sites and species covered under UK and European legislation. Natural England has produced standing advice on protected species.

Demonstrating the Council's ongoing commitment to the environment and biodiversity, the Council has also recently reinforced its commitment through the introduction of our new manifesto commitments:

- to become a Carbon Free City by 2028
- to develop bee friendly habitats in every ward

- Plant 10,000 trees across the City.
- The Council also has a statutory duty to protect and enhance biodiversity.

Taking these priorities into account over the last few years the Cemetery and Crematorium Service has continued to review methods of grounds maintenance with a view to relaxing mowing regimes where possible to help improve biodiversity help contribute to our carbon free priorities.

During spring 2019 we took the decision to extend a trial of relaxed mowing in an area known locally as The Dell at Wilford Hill. This area is predominantly made up of older burials with few regular visitors to this section. With these types of trials it is very difficult to consult with people prior to the trial as it can be many months between people actually visiting the area and also a lot of the grave owner records are outdated due to families moving house and not letting our service know. There is an estimated 3000 traditional grave plots in this section, with each grave plot being the responsibility of the individual grave owner and any surrounding grass areas being the responsibility of Nottingham City Council.

With the above in mind we commenced our trial and placed signage around the areas to inform visitors of the trial and to signpost enquiries to our office and generic email for further information. As the weeks progressed we did receive a number of questions and a total of four complaints. The majority of questions were answered by our team quickly and people were generally accepting of our approach. In some cases we were requested to cut a pathway to a specific grave which we gladly did within a few days of being asked. In addition to these scenarios, there were a couple of ongoing queries which the Cemetery Manager personally managed in order to provide reassurance and clarity on our approach to the maintenance.

As the summer progressed we also had a visit from one of our biodiversity officers to look at the flora and fauna present. The conclusion provided on this was as follows:-

“There is a mix of species here, mainly grasses. I can see some flowering plants however, ox eye daisy, self-heal, cow parsley, bird’s foot trefoil, poppy, clover and harebells. This will undoubtedly provide the site with habitat for a range of invertebrates, including grass specialist butterflies such as ringlet, meadow brown and gatekeeper, as well as other species that favour certain plants such as common blue. Bees and other pollinating insects will be attracted to the flowers, as well as day flying moths. Other inverts, such as beetles, spiders and flies etc. will benefit from the long grass to use as cover, areas to breed and forage. Habitat such as this is great for amphibians, grass snakes and small mammals.”

Once this survey had been completed we agreed to then commence the cutting back of this area in full during late August 2019. This work has now been completed and the area is now back down to normal growing height.

Taking all of the trial experience into account the plan at the moment is to reintroduce this approach at the Dell next season but on a smaller scale to enable the regular cutting to continue in areas where we were asked to cut pathways. It is

hoped that taking this approach will enable a way forward that accommodates the needs of all concerned including bereaved visitors and also helps our service to improve areas of biodiversity.

In conclusion I feel that we took a considered and planned approach to relaxing mowing in this area backed by the clear intention to then work with visitors as they contacted us to discuss/ clarify our work and to enable our service to adapt our approach in line with the thoughts and preferences of bereaved visitors. All of the families we have worked with over the last few months seem to be happy with our position on this and I do feel that the intended approach next year will meet the needs of families and other interested parties.

WQ2

WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR LEISURE, CULTURE AND IT AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2019

Could the Portfolio Holder provide a comparison of how many vacant allotment plots there are in the City, split out between self-managed and direct let, compared with the same period last year?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and IT:

Thank you for your question regarding the above. I can confirm that the allotments in the City are split between those managed directly by the Council, and sites which are managed by Associations who lease the land from us.

The split between these is as follows:

Association (self-managed) allotments

Association allotment plots in total	1,076
Association vacancies 2017	42
Association vacancies 2018	87
Association vacancies 2019	Data not yet received from Associations*

*As the council manages both the Direct-let and Association-led allotment sites, the Service carries out an annual consultation with the Associations in order for them to supply vacancy details. This year's consultation is currently in progress and therefore we do not currently have all the vacancy details for 2019. We will be able to update this information later in the year.

Direct let allotments (Nottingham City Council run)

Direct let allotment plots in total	968
Direct let plot vacancies September 2019	52

Direct let non-viable plots
Total Vacancies

275
327*

*Of these 275 vacant non-viable direct let plots, most have no water supply and many are classed as “change of use” as they are no longer deemed to be suitable land for allotment use due to poor or no access. Most of these sites have been vacant/ semi derelict for many years and some have now become heavily wooded sites. In some cases, some sites could be brought back into cultivation but this would require considerable capital investment.

Over the last 5 years, the Allotment Service has tried to bring a number of the non-viable sites back into productive use. In some cases, this has been successful. However, it is very unlikely that all the non-viable sites will be lettable even if fully cleared due to the poor access and lack of water etc. In these cases, the Allotment Service will consult with the local councillors and affected local residents in order to agree a suitable future use for the sites.

The table below provides a full breakdown of each direct site and vacancy rates.

Site	Total Plots	Total Vacancies	Reason for High Vacancy Rate
Aspley Estate	47	23	Non – Viable Land-locked plots – change of use needed.
Blenheim Lane	121	15	Vacancies available
Blenheim New Site	40	4	Vacancies available
Canal Allotments	155	39	Non – Viable Land-locked plots – long, narrow site.
Clifton Estate	23	17	Non – Viable Low interest as lots of Association plots nearby
Edge Way	24	0	No Vacancies
Glaisdale Drive	4	2	Vacancies available
Gordon Road	15	5	Vacancies available
Greens, Shilton & Windmill Lane	61	4	Vacancies available
Highbury Vale Estate	24	16	Non – Viable Change of use plots - not advertised for rent
Lenton Abbey Estate	61	43	Non – Viable Land-locked plots – change of use needed.
Mapperley Road	17	1	Vacancies available
Moorfield	106	6	Vacancies available
Nether Close, Bakersfield	1	0	No Vacancies
Other Allotments	8	5	Vacancies available
Port Arthur Road	12	3	Vacancies available
Sherwood Estate	99	70	Non – Viable Land-locked plots – change of use needed.

Sneinton Gardens	52	38	Non – Viable Plots not lettable (many now secondary woodland)
St Martins Road	4	1	Vacancies available
Stockhill Circus	12	5	Vacancies available
Tollerton	5	0	No Vacancies
Trowell Avenue	7	0	No Vacancies
Westleigh Road	24	23	Plots not lettable - overgrown
Wollaton Park	6	3	Vacancies available
Woodthorpe	35	1	Vacancies available
Wyrle Drive	5	3	Vacancies available
TOTAL	968	327	

Please note that all figures exclude St Ann's allotments where there are 681 plots - we do not receive returns from them due to the nature of their lease and so we do not know their vacancy rates or their waiting list length.

If the questioner has any further questions regarding the allotments please feel free to contact Head of Public Realm directly.

WQ3

WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ADULT CARE AND LOCAL TRANSPORT AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2019

Could the Portfolio Holder confirm how many residents of the City are in receipt of Direct Payments and how much this equates to?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Local Transport:

On 16 August 2019, there were 1,123 adults receiving Direct Payments.
The total spend on Direct Payments for 2018/19 was £18.431m.
The total forecast spend for 2019/20 is £17.529m.

WQ4

WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITIES AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2019

Could the Portfolio Holder confirm how many 3G deployable cameras there are currently deployed across the City and how many times these cameras moved locations over the last 12 months, broken down by ward?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Communities:

There are currently 31 cameras deployed across the City. A breakdown of their current location by ward and how many times they have been moved in the last 12 months is as follows:

Current Ward	CAMERA No.	3G cameras deployed by Ward	Moves in last 12 months	Current Location
Bilborough	2	1	3	Bracebridge Drive
Meadows	10	2	2	Kelsoe Gardens
	15		2	Walsron Close
Castle	8	2	1	Robin Hood Statue
	28		1	Church Walk/St. Peter's Gate
Bestwood	5	3	0	Belconnen Road
	18		0	Kyle View
	27		1	Lytham Gardens
Bulwell	HD 29	2	0	Commercial Road
	HD 30		2	Rufford Walk
Bulwell Forest	6	1	2	Swale Close
Clifton East	23	5	0	Colleymoor Leys Lane
	14		1	Rivergreen
	7		0	Midhurst Way
	20		1	Barbury Drive
	24		1	Nobel Road
Clifton West	22	1	0	Brookthorpe Way
Dales	9	2	1	Meadow Lane
	12		1	Lees Hill Street
Leen Valley	13	2	0	Ainsley Road
	21		0	Fleet Close & Northdown Road
St Ann's	25	3	0	Ransom Road
	11		0	Walton Ave facing Walton Terrace
	17		1	Booth Close
Radford	3	2	0	Clifford Street
	HD 34		0	Garfield Road
Berridge	HD35	1	1	Mount Street
Lenton & Wollaton East	19	2	0	Kennington Road
	1		0	Farndon Green
Hyson Green & Arboretum	4	2	1	St. Paul's Avenue
	32		0	Maples Street