

Public Document Pack

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council

held remotely via Zoom and livestreamed on the Council's YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/user/NottCityCouncil>

on 8 March 2021 from 2.00 pm - 7.34 pm

Attendances:

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

✓ Indicates present at meeting

69 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Hassan Ahmed – personal
Councillor Eunice Campbell-Clark - personal
Councillor Phil Jackson – personal
Councillor Maria Joannou – personal
Councillor Sue Johnson - personal

70 Declarations of Interests

In relation to agenda item 12 Budget 2021/22 (minute reference 80), in the interests of transparency, Councillors Steve Battlemuch and Anne Peach stated that they were trustees of the Nottingham Playhouse Board. This did not prevent them from remaining in the room during consideration of the proposals and voting on this item.

71 Questions from Citizens

Development of the library at Broadmarsh

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

In light of the large financial pressures the City Council is currently facing, could the Portfolio Holder confirm that the provision of the new Central Library at Broadmarsh is continuing uninterrupted and provide an update on progress towards the library's opening?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and I would like to thank the citizen for the question submitted regarding the provision of the new Central Library as part of the Broadmarsh development. Firstly, I want to recognise the important roles that libraries play in many of our communities. Access to quality local library provision makes a massive difference to many people's lives and their future life chances. I am proud of the continued commitment we have been able to make over the last decade to improve library provision in Nottingham. This has included new library provision as part of the joint service centres in Bulwell, St Anns and Hyson Green, and more recently we have opened replacement facilities in Strelley Road and the Dales. As well as this we have refurbished many libraries across the City, including those in Clifton and Bilborough, and soon the work will commence to build a replacement library in Sherwood. This development has been brought about by working in a unique way with the developer of housing nearby, providing a new library at no extra cost to the Council.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our library staff who, during the Covid pandemic, have provided access for people to collect books, gain access to computers and provided a wide range of activities and events online, introduced new 'click and collect' services and carried on supporting home delivery services to many of our housebound residents. Similarly, many staff have also been redeployed and supporting other Council support services. This has included becoming core teams for the Customer Services Team, to help support some of our most vulnerable and isolated citizens; supporting the Coroner's Office by processing paperwork; and the Business Grant Support Teams, helping them process essential grants which have been a lifeline for many businesses. In addition, a large number of staff also put themselves forward to be on the frontline, staffing the City's first asymptomatic testing centre at Djanogly Leisure Centre. This is often unsung work but important to recognise. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Trimble for his contributions over many years. No one has done more to promote, develop and deliver improvements in our libraries, parks and open spaces throughout the years. His legacy will be enjoyed not only in the vibrant new Central Library but also in the green spaces he cares so much about and, of course, the redeveloped Castle which,

due to his dedication, we will all start to enjoy later this year. Thank you Councillor Trimble for all your work throughout almost 20 years on the Council's Executive.

The delivery of a new Central Library remains a key priority for the Council and its development remains part of the City Council's Capital Programme moving forwards. As Leader of the Council, delivering on this commitment to the people of Nottingham is a priority and one that we are committed to achieving. A new building for the library is already there as part of the complex which will also house the car park and the new bus station, reopening later this year. Like many other local authorities, Nottingham City Council continues to face a challenging financial situation. Establishing stable finances is a priority for us, so there will be a delay to our original intention to complete the fit-out of the new Central Library that we had first hoped to do by December 2021. We now hope that, following the successful sale of the Angel Row site, we should be able to start the fit-out of the new Central Library in the summer, aiming to complete the work next year. I appreciate that this has meant that the Central Library facility has been closed for longer than was first expected, which I know is an inconvenience. In order to minimise this disruption we have sought to provide ongoing access to the Central Library resources via the Service's Reservation Service, we have relocated a number of Central Library based services and stocks to other community libraries and, only this week, a brand new website has been launched that contains a lot of access to many library resources online.

I am very excited about the designs that I have seen for the new Central Library, housing a great library space for children, and the many positive feedback comments received when these were shared with the public were positive endorsements of the direction of travel. I can't wait to see the new Central Library open and I know that this will be a valuable additional amenity for the City as a whole and for many future generations of children in particular.

72 Petitions from Councillors on behalf of Citizens

Councillor Maria Watson presented a petition on behalf of residents asking the Council to reverse the decision to close any and all adult day centres and to seek budgetary savings away from the adult social care budget, fully funding adult social care to protect society's most vulnerable.

73 To confirm the Minutes of the last Ordinary meeting of Council held on 11 January 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2021 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

74 To confirm the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on 25 January 2021

The minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on 25 January 2021 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

75 To receive official communications and announcements from the Leader of the Council and/or the Chief Executive

The Chief Executive reported the following:

I have two sad announcements regarding the deaths of Council employees. I am very sad to report the death of Trevor Poole, an officer in the Public Realm Team who worked mainly in Bestwood and Basford. Trevor joined the Council in 2002 and worked with dedication, commitment and good humour. He was a positive influence on younger members of staff and helped them to learn the job. Trevor was a popular member of the Team and will be greatly missed by all those who knew and worked with him. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

It is also with great sadness that I report the death of Helen Blackman, our Director of Children's Integrated Services. Helen first qualified as a social worker in 1989 and dedicated her working life to improving opportunities for children and young people in Nottingham and the wider area. Following almost a decade working for Nottinghamshire County Council specialising in child protection, children in care and adoption services, Helen joined Nottingham City Council just over 20 years ago in 1998. Following a series of management roles, Helen became Head of Neighbourhood Fieldwork in 2008 and was appointed Director of Children's Integrated Services in 2013. Helen will be greatly missed by those who knew, and worked with her and her loss will be felt very deeply. Our thoughts are with her family and friends at this very sad time.

Councillor Langton spoke in tribute to Trevor Poole.

Councillors Mellen, Rule and Barnard spoke in tribute to Helen Blackman.

A minute's silence was held.

76 Questions from Councillors - to the City Council's lead Councillor on the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority

None

77 Questions from Councillors - to a member of Executive Board, the Chair of a committee and the Chair of any other City Council body

Children's Services budget savings

Councillor Andrew Rule asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People:

The Portfolio Holder will be aware that one of the budget savings put forward by the Children's Services Directorate is to return looked after children to their birth families on the rationale that this will reduce longer term care costs. Can the Portfolio Holder detail what safeguarding measures will be put in place to ensure that the reliance on savings from this proposal does not lead to the welfare of looked after children being compromised?

Councillor Cheryl Barnard replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank Councillor Rule for asking this question. Any plan for a child to return to their family or relative via rehabilitation will be based on a

robust assessment which will include the views of their Independent Reviewing Officer and will be part of their agreed Care Plan. I would add that, in most cases, the aim at the outset of a child entering care should be reunification with their family. As part of the management oversight, a Panel will be held to provide assurance and scrutiny of the children identified. This Panel will consider the plan and give approval, if deemed safe and in the best interests of the child. If at any point during the rehabilitation assessment and work undertaken, information becomes available that would deem the prospect of reunification as poor, as not in the best interests of the child or as unsafe then the plan would cease. The rehabilitation of children home has always been part of social work duties, by having a dedicated team it will ensure that assessments are timely and robust, including the views of the child and those professionals in the child's network, it will be based on the child's lived experience and what that will be if they return home and will provide a support plan based on the family or relative's needs once the child returns home to ensure that the child continues to be safe and well cared for. We are also looking at targeting some children who are in their mid-teens and are expected to choose to return home when they reach 18. The work with the family in those last couple of years will mean that they are more likely to be safe once they reach 18. The safety and welfare of any child will be the prime priority and consideration in any decision to rehabilitate him or her home to parents or relatives. Can I assure Councillor Rule that I have looked carefully at this decision and am confident that this approach will not compromise child safety.

However, we face a national crisis in relation to children services. The Local Government Association reported as far back as August 2019 that children's services across the country were facing a £1.4bn shortfall for 2021. Rising numbers of children in care over the last decade, a reduction in funding from central government and a broken placement market that has resulted in spiralling costs have all contributed to this crisis. Austerity and now Covid have resulted in families being unable to cope and we are yet to see the full impact in terms of domestic violence and mental health issues. Perhaps Councillor Rule would follow our lead and lobby the Government for proper funding for children's services.

Enviroenergy

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

Could the Portfolio Holder confirm whether Enviroenergy has now repaid the £15.7m interest free loan owed to the Council as per its last set of filed accounts at Companies House?

Councillor Sam Webster replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor. I think Councillor Rule is possibly referring to historical Steam debt. I don't recognise the interest-free loan headline he has asked in the question. Assuming that he means the historical Steam debt, the majority of the historical Steam debt of £12m, and there are trade debtors of £3m as of 31 March 2019, it is expected that the balance of Steam debt will have reduced by £1m by 31 March 2021.

LOBO loans

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

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm how much the Council spent on its recent legal action against Barclays Bank in respect of LOBO loans taken out by the Council?

Councillor Sam Webster replied as follows:

The spend to date on the recent legal action against Barclays Bank in respect of LOBO loans taken out by the Council is £129,000. The legal action was sought following legal advice back in 2018 and seven other local authorities were involved in the court case along with Nottingham City Council.

Covid-19 vaccinations

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

Could the Portfolio Holder detail what action the Council is taking to counter disinformation about the effectiveness and side effects of the Covid-19 vaccine and whether she shares my disappointment and concern about the effect this may be having on vaccine take up amongst the more clinically vulnerable groups in our communities?

Councillor Sally Longford replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you for your second question about Covid-related disinformation in as many meetings Councillor Rule. Recent published figures show that more than 75% of Nottingham citizens have received their first vaccine dose and we have been encouraging everyone who has been eligible to get an appointment. I was glad to be able to take the opportunity myself quite recently. It is vitally important that we continue to maximise the number of people in our communities who take the vaccine because it will save lives. As Chair of the Outbreak Control Engagement Board for the City, I have been working with the NHS and other partners and share your concerns about the potential impact of disinformation about the effectiveness and side effects of the vaccine. Nationally we have seen the vaccine uptake is lower amongst more deprived populations as well as amongst those from black and minority ethnic groups and this is a serious concern for us in a City proud of our diversity. We need to ensure that all of our citizens benefit from this opportunity to keep themselves safe. Local authorities have a unique understanding of the needs of their populations and we are well-placed to support activity targeted at our local communities and have been eager to help our colleagues in the NHS who have been rolling out the vaccine programme. I am pleased to outline for you some of the key actions already taken by the City Council: Our Communications Team has been working with the NHS to actively counter disinformation and promote the key messages regarding the vaccination programme and we have created a range of bespoke content for Nottingham including producing and promoting video case studies. In these videos a diverse group of councillors, local celebrities, community leaders and citizens have pleaded to local people to take up the vaccination and

address some of the common myths and misunderstandings. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have taken part including Robin Hood, Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Sat Bains, John McGovern and Vicky McClure. Graphics that challenge fake news have also been shared on social media and point people towards credible official sources of information. Working with community groups, videos in different languages have been made for them to share and a toolkit of messages and translations for faith and other community groups has been created as we know that people are often more likely to listen to their peers. We have shared key messages at our weekly media briefings and provided guest spokespeople for local community media channels. I am particularly proud of the support that we have been able to provide from our Customer Hub to our partners in the NHS. The Hub has been calling eligible people who have not yet received their vaccination to offer support. This means that not only are they able to make bookings on behalf of the citizens but they are also able to address queries and can refer citizens with particular anxieties for professional advice, for example from their GP. As we move through the priority cohorts this approach taken to tackling disinformation and removing barriers to uptake will need to be flexible. We will continue to work closely with the NHS but importantly we will continue to seek the views of those who represent the communities we need to target, whether this be people of particular ethnicities, those with learning disabilities, clinically extremely vulnerable or homeless individuals. Their understanding of the issues and disinformation that is circulating, as well as their knowledge of the best way to counter this, is crucial. We are very much committed to ensuring that no-one is left behind and you can feel assured that we will continue to challenge those insidious anti-vax messages which are circulating that will undermine efforts to control the spread of the virus and threaten us all. I urge everyone with family and friends eligible for the vaccine to encourage them to grasp the opportunity as soon as they can.

Community Protection Officers budget savings

Councillor Kevin Clarke asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Employment and Community Protection:

In 2019 the Labour Group won a majority in this Council on the back of its 2019-2023 Manifesto. In this Manifesto they committed to “maintain 100 CPOs (Community Protection Officers) to work across all areas of the City” and to protect that number from cuts of any kind. The Portfolio Holder should be reassured that we in the Independents agree wholeheartedly with the Manifesto’s alleged belief that Community Protection Officers have made important contributions to achieving a fall in anti-social behaviour across the City. It is therefore with sadness that we note that less than two years into that Manifesto, the Council is proposing to cut the number of CPOs by a full 20%, from 100 to 80. Can the Portfolio Holder inform us what impact these reductions are predicted to have on how the CPOs currently operate and what actions are being taken to mitigate this impact?

Councillor Neghat Khan replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Clarke for your question. As we all know, the whole world continues to feel the devastating impact of the Covid pandemic and as we, as a City, respond to the significant challenges, we must reconsider what our priorities are, it is what the people in our City expect and

deserve. Unfortunately, that means having to look again at the services we deliver and having to make difficult choices about which services to safeguard in these challenging times. It means having to make hard choices because we know if we make these now, not only will we secure financial stability in Nottingham but in years to come we will be better able to build back our services in new and creative ways. In 2019 I was one of those Labour councillors who stood in the Council Chamber and proudly adopted the Labour Manifesto as the basis of Council policy and endorsed the Council Plan as our commitment to the people of this City. It was the right thing at the time for this Council and I am proud to have endorsed that. However, as many before me have said, we are custodians of this great City we serve and represent our communities with great pride, and in doing so we are not just here to lead in the good times. I know how valuable our Community Protection Officers are and I would like to thank every single one of them for the amazing work they do. Labour colleagues take every opportunity to tell me how grateful they are for the work Community Protection Officers do in their areas. During the pandemic Community Protection Officers have gone above and beyond: they have carried out important welfare checks on our most vulnerable; have delivered essential food parcels to people in our City; as well as investigating flytipping and all the other important jobs they do to protect our City. As Councillor Clarke will be aware, even if he is often silent on the issue, the Conservative Government continues to unfairly fund local authorities like Nottingham which has consequences for local services. Councillor Webster and other colleagues will be talking in more detail about this later in the meeting. I am pleased that we have still managed to protect 80% of the Service and have more Community Protection Officers than most other local authorities in the country. Believe me when I say we would not want to lose any of our brilliant Community Protection Officers, believe me when I say that Nottingham Labour has done everything in the last 11 years to avoid cutting Community Protection Officer numbers. As part of the budget proposal we will discuss later this afternoon, a transformation programme has been developed to ensure that all our communities in Nottingham continue to be served by Community Protection Officers and ensure all of our communities are ultimately kept safe and clean. This remains our vision and one that we intend to deliver. Work is taking place to review Community Protection Officer workstreams by threat, risk and harm to ensure that the right tasks are continuing to be prioritised. As part of the programme specialist training will be delivered to Community Protection Officers by identified trainers ahead of moving to the new model. As we move forward we will also make the most of technology to help with performance management and service delivery. The Service remains completely committed to offering the City the best service possible and I am confident that this new operating model will see us fulfil our statutory and regulatory functions while keeping the City safe and clean and protecting our most vulnerable citizens. This will also be helped by weekly meetings with both universities, monthly anti-social behaviour meetings with a range of partners, monthly transport-hub meetings and regular updates to the Crime and Drugs Partnership Board. Nottinghamshire Police will be a key partner in continuing to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour across the City. Their officers work very closely with our Community Protection Officers and are very important in keeping Nottingham communities safe. I am pleased that our Police and Crime Commissioner will have recruited 260 new more officers by April and I will be making the case for the City's fair share of those in order to keep our streets safe. I do not wish to prejudge the decision of the Council but should we endorse the proposal before you this afternoon we will seek to ensure that our Community Protection Officers are allocated in a way that covers our statutory and

regulatory functions as well as the operational level through distinct geographical hubs. Finally, I would like to say that, as the Government continues to diminish resources to this City Council, it is crucial we work with other partners to keep communities in our City safe. I hope this reassures you and answers your question.

Area Committees

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

We register that this Council is in a financial situation that requires firm and immediate action, and we further register that some of those actions are going to be difficult for everyone involved. With this in mind however, we feel that the Council could be doing a better job of communicating these actions and why the decisions were made to the stakeholders involved. Precisely, we would like to have seen the proposal for the reduction in area committee meetings individually communicated to those involved in those area committees and those individuals given an opportunity to contribute their opinions beyond resorting to the general public consultation. In the last year this Council has been accused of a worrying lack of accountability. Considering that this specific proposal could be regarded as undermining the democratic process in local communities, would the Portfolio Holder not agree that individual consultations with Wards would have been appropriate?

Councillor Sally Longford replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Jones for this question. In January 2021 the Council's Executive Board agreed to consult on a number of budget proposals which we will consider for approval later on this agenda today. This was a considerable and comprehensive consultation process with internal staff, the business community, the voluntary and community sector as well as hosting a number of online consultation events for members of the public. Over 600 people have chosen to engage with our consultation in one way or another so I would like to take the opportunity to thank them all for making their views known. We have a duty to set a legal budget within a legal deadline and we do our best to engage those affected, as well as members of the public in as many ways as possible.

I take no pleasure in having to present proposals such as these to Council but, as we have discussed here before and will no doubt do so again, local government finances across the country are in a parlous state, having been slashed and burned by successive Conservative governments over the last ten years, and with the added impact of Covid for which we still have not been wholly reimbursed. We have to use what resources we have wisely and in considering all the options area committees were considered to be one of the least worst. Removing area committee meetings will do two things: reduce the work load and save money. For far too long staff across the Council have been asked to continually add duties to their already burgeoning workload while seeing a reduction in their staffing levels. This includes the team in Constitutional Services who are responsible for the administration and minuting of all our formal meetings. Several new committees and boards have been added to the schedule in recent times, from our Companies Governance Executive Sub Committee to the City Outbreak Control Engagement Board. In order to continue to deliver services effectively we have to consider how their workload could

be managed and therefore agreed, as a non-statutory function, we could propose to stop the area committees which account for 28 meetings a year. The financial saving linked to this comes in the deletion the Special Responsibility Allowance of £6,763 which has been paid to each of the seven councillors who chair area committees saving £47,000 a year in total. As members will know as part of the Recovery and Improvement Plan we are reviewing our Constitution, and the various specific delegations which form part of area committees will be included in that comprehensive review. I wouldn't want to prejudice the discussion on the budget this afternoon but should we proceed with the proposal we would also embark on a comprehensive review of how we currently engage with our communities on a ward level, on a partnership level and on a City wide level. This will enable us to consult with councillors and communities to see how best to engage with people in the future. We will also be writing to all of our community representatives as part of this process thanking them for their commitment and encouraging them to continue to be involved. Since the Covid pandemic we have all been operating in a very different way and a positive outcome of that has been the development of the area partnerships. We have actually been reaching more groups of people and individuals than before through our wider engagement. So while online meetings do have their benefits I am sure we are all looking forward to the day when we can meet face to face again, but I expect a blended approach to engagement to be needed for some time to come. Area committees often attract a small range of regular attenders and they may not be representative of the communities we serve. I think each area and ward will come to their own decisions about how they will continue to engage with their citizens and there is nothing at all to stop councillors meeting with citizens on a regular basis but it will be outside the very formal process of the area committees in future, which I believe often puts some people off participating. So no, I don't agree that this will dilute local democracy in our wards. We councillors have a duty to keep our constituents informed and consult with them and I am sure we will all find ways to continue to do so in a variety of methods.

Covid-19

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

I'm sure I speak for everyone here when I say how disappointing it was to see the Police forced to break up crowds in Nottingham's parks last week. After nearly a full year of lockdowns and restrictions, to still see people unable to follow the rules intended to keep us all safe is frankly disheartening. With the weather getting warmer, does the Leader consider it necessary for the Council to take extra steps to ensure we don't see the kind of behaviour that could lead to further Lockdowns?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank Councillor Watson for her question. The Police are the enforcers with regard to social Covid gatherings. Nottinghamshire Police, under the current Police and Crime Commissioner, has seen an increase in Police numbers deployed across our City, for which we are very grateful. So while I am disappointed that some behaviour in our parks showed little regard for the fact that we are still in lockdown with declining but still high levels of Covid infections in our City, I am pleased to see that our partners in the Police responded to complaints in the way that they did. As part of their duties Council Community Protection

Officers will continue to attend parks and open spaces to provide hi-vis patrols and an engagement presence. Community Protection Officers will enforce legislation with regards to leaving litter, breaches of the alcohol related public spaces protection orders and other associated offences. If Community Protection Officers witness social gatherings they will engage with the group and will escalate to the Police when required via the Police Control Room. This is now part of the Community Protection Officer order for the roadmap to reopening. In addition, Street Scene and Grounds Maintenance staff will also provide additional bins and litter picks during the weekends. The Services will also increase communications on social media to inform park users regarding distancing rules and asking them to keep the parks tidy. I reported an overflowing bin just yesterday and was very pleased to get an almost instant response to clear up the mess, even on a Sunday afternoon.

International Women's Day

Councillor Chantal Lee asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Highways and Strategic Transport:

How will Nottingham be marking International Women's Day given people are unable to get together in person?

Councillor Rebecca Langton replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you to Councillor Lee for her question. I would like to wish everybody a very happy International Women's Day. It is a strange time to be thinking back one year, on this exact day one year ago we were in the middle of hosting the first ever International Women's Day at the Council House. More than 500 Nottingham women came along to an open house, enjoying stalls, discussion, friendship, connection and cake. The event was put on by a diverse group of women. We got together because we wanted to do something, made it inclusive, accessible and it was brilliant. It was the last big event many of us were part of before Covid and the strength that I took from our City being full of inspiring women has kept me going at times during this challenging year. We also unveiled a plaque on the side of the Council House which celebrates the first women, and first ethnic minority women to hold certain elected positions in the City. We themed our events around celebrating Nottingham women. We wanted the events to be for all Nottingham women, so whether in person or online, they were able to recognise the achievements of ordinary Nottingham women.

For obvious reasons we can't repeat last year's celebration but we are still marking International Women's Day and there is loads going on across the City. For the first time we have an International Women's Day banner across the Council House. The banner was designed in partnership with different organisations and community groups to ensure diverse representation in the design. Community cohesion and community equalities colleagues at Nottingham City Council have been part of a working group established with partners across the City to plan for International Women's Day. The group has created a website which holds an online events calendar, full of activities happening virtually in Nottingham on and around International Women's Day. It aims to keep people campaigning, celebrating and inspired. Some of the online events include free yoga and Zumba classes, employability workshops, poetry sessions and panel discussions and difficult

conversations led by the Community Cohesion Hate Crime Team on misogyny and sexism. Nottingham libraries have organised workshops on forgotten voices of women's literature, whilst the Sports and Leisure Team have been involved in the This Girl Can week, highlighting events for women. Events will continue throughout this week and the full programme is online at www.iwdnottingham.com.

The national theme for International Women's Day this year is 'Choose to Challenge'. We have invited women to share how they have persevered through the pandemic, challenged stereotypes and stigma. We have invited women to share videos and photos which we will be posting online this week. We also encourage everyone here to post a pledge of what they choose to challenge on this International Women's Day because, whilst today is a day to celebrate women, it is also a day to recognise the ongoing challenges, under-representation and discrimination that women face in society. Covid has exacerbated this problem. We have seen this throughout the last year. We have talked about health inequalities more than ever before but, on the whole, Covid hasn't created inequality. What it has done is entrenched it wherever it existed and exposed it for all to see. Of course this is not only true for women. We have seen a consistent disproportionate impact of the pandemic on black, Asian and ethnic minority communities and six in ten of those who have died from Covid have been disabled – a huge over-representation and massively disproportionate. But as it is International Women's Day I will focus on the disproportionate impact on women, remembering of course that women are also black, Asian and ethnic minority, disabled, LGBT, pregnant, of all ages and religions. So how has Covid challenged women? Well the answer is: massively. According to the Office of National Statistics, women did two thirds of additional childcare duties during the initial lockdown as well as spending more time on unpaid work; women picked up more non-development care than men, household jobs like cooking and washing; women were more likely to be furloughed than men meaning more women experienced the 20% loss of income that came with this; unemployment has risen more for women than men, a trend that is replicated across Europe and North America, some of this was due to a lack of childcare. The Trades Union Congress found that two in five working mothers struggled to do their work due a lack of formal or informal childcare, forcing one in six to reduce their hours and, with it, their pay. Single parent families were amongst the worst affected – nine in ten single parents are women and of them, one in ten lost their job and one in three was furloughed leading to a dramatic rise of children in single parent households experiencing poverty. Let's not forget that frontline healthcare is massively gendered, with 77% of the NHS workforce women, on the frontline exposed most to the dangers of Covid. It's not just about work or money, women's experiences have been damaged in many ways due to Covid, for example Covid has worsened access to the maternity care. For much of the last year pregnant women have had to attend ante-natal appointments completely alone and some experienced the vast majority of childbirth without the support of their partners. This left partners out of the excitement of the experience and at the other end of the spectrum left women to deal with the trauma of pregnancy loss alone. This has had a long term and lasting impact on too many women and I remain convinced that if more women had been making decisions something would have been done to address this much sooner. Calls to domestic violence helplines in Nottingham have risen by 50% during Covid and we have seen a huge rise in referrals to the Sanctuary Scheme. Young girls and women are amongst those worst affected by worsening mental health in Covid. All of these things don't just go away if and when Covid does. They illustrate existing and structural inequality that was there before

and so a commitment to challenge and change these things will be needed to improve them. International Women's Day is a day for women but that doesn't mean that it is a day for men to be silent. It remains a fact that men still dominate board rooms, cabinet rooms, rooms where the decisions are made and whilst that is true we need allies that elevate the voices of women and stand alongside us. I hope that on this International Women's Day, many men around us will commit to choosing to challenge discrimination, under-representation and inequality wherever it still exists for women. We only need to think of the Covid response to be reminded that this is true. Women's voices have been overwhelming missing from the narrative, you can see that from the Government press conferences, at Cabinet briefings. The impact on decision making at a national level is clear. We need more women's voices in our decisions. That means men and women choosing to challenge the status quo.

There is a lot to feel angry about when it comes to the disadvantage that still affects women in society but International Women's Day is also about celebrating women who overcome this everyday and it is not about the names you read in the history books, although they are amazing too, it is about celebrating every woman. I would like to recognise the women who work for Nottingham City Council. We are lucky as a Council to have committed women who make up our workforce. I know it has been said before but we must never take for granted our female majority Council and Cabinet. On International Women's Day I would like to recognise the women of this Council, from all walks of life and all backgrounds, being in local politics as a woman is a challenge and I am proud to sit amongst you all. As a young woman on this Council I sometimes forget how unusual this is, but when I go to meetings outside the City that remain predominantly old, white and male I am reminded quite how far we have come and quite how far there still is to go in representation in politics.

I asked a few colleagues and local residents to tell me women in the local community who deserve celebrating this International Women's Day. The response was overwhelming and, although I would love to, I would certainly exceed my time if I told you every story that was shared with me and I don't want to single out some people for fear of missing others but, suffice to say, the women of Nottingham's communities have stepped up in Covid, doing amazing things for their families, communities and City. They make a huge difference, not because they hold power or status but because they are the heart and the spirit of Nottingham. Our City and community wouldn't be what it is without you and today we celebrate you. So this International Women's Day, we have an exciting programme of virtual events but let's mark the day by celebrating the women of our City and by committing ourselves to choosing to challenge injustice, disadvantage, prejudice and misogyny wherever we see it not just on International Women's Day, but everyday.

Police and Crime Commissioner elections

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

Can the Portfolio Holder for Energy, Environment and Democratic Services explain what work is taking place to ensure safety of voters and staff for the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioner Elections?

Councillor Sally Longford replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank Councillor Neal for this question which raises an important issue as we approach the election for Police and Crime Commissioner on 6 May. At the last meeting of Council I referred to the preparations being made and can confirm that they are well underway. As this will be our first election conducted during a pandemic additional safety measures are being introduced to ensure that the voters, staff, candidates and agents are able to participate safely and with confidence whether attending the polling stations, postal vote opening or the count. Although the election will be similar to previous polls in many ways, as everyone will expect, to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid, safety measures will be implemented at polling stations and other election venues. These include social distancing, hand sanitising and wearing face coverings unless medically exempt. Personal protective equipment is being procured for staff, and voters will be encouraged to bring and wear their own mask as well as a pen or pencil to mark their ballot paper, although both will be provided if not. It is widely recognised that some people may not be able to, or prefer not to attend the polling station in person at this election. Therefore, the option of voting by post or by proxy may be a more appropriate way to vote this time. A press release has been issued and the Council has publicised through social media and on the website encouragement to register to vote and to apply for a postal or proxy vote if necessary. I myself have been a bit die hard when it comes to attending the polling station previously but have this year applied for a postal vote. To ensure that no elector is disenfranchised due to the pandemic, changes are being made to the proxy voting procedure to ensure that those who become ill at short notice or are told to self-isolate can apply for a proxy vote up until 5pm on polling day. This also extends to an appointable proxy so that a replacement proxy can be appointed instead. Officers have also been assessing the suitability of polling stations and appropriate staffing. Amendments to polling places is a delegated responsibility of the Returning Officer and a thorough review has been carried out to reassess their suitability for this election. This has been particularly difficult while premises have remained closed and with uncertainty over the availability of some venues. Also, as part of this review, it has been a priority not to use premises used for educational purposes or located within sheltered housing accommodation in order to ensure that schools can remain open for teaching and to protect some of our most vulnerable citizens. The outcome of the review is that a total of sixteen polling stations require a change of location and due to a lack of suitable venues in most of these districts there has been no alternative but to merge these stations with those in adjacent districts. A list of changes to polling stations will be published on the Council's website soon and I will share this information when it is available with councillors. I would like to thank the Elections Team for their hard work in preparing for the election in these difficult circumstances and I hope that our citizens will feel reassured and will take the opportunity to vote on 6 May. Register to vote and apply for a postal or proxy vote now please.

Adult social care

Councillor Carole McCulloch asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Local Transport:

On 13 December 2019, Boris Johnson said, "And so I am announcing now – on the steps of Downing Street – that we will fix the crisis in social care once and for all, and with a clear plan we have prepared to give every older person the dignity and security

they deserve.” Could the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Local Transport Council explain what progress the Prime Minister has made in bringing forward his plan and fulfilling his promise?

Councillor Adele Williams replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor McCulloch for the question which I could answer very quickly by saying: not very much it appears. I think, however, that there has been some recent briefing that it will be out by the end of the year but we will wait and see whether that will go the way of previous promises. It was disappointing after a year in which the Conservative Members of Parliament stood and clapped for carers, we have seen no progress at all with this. As Angela Rayner MP said ‘claps don’t pay the bills and when it came to showing how valued carers were in the budget carers will have seen how it is’. We know that adult social care is a sector which has been in crisis and in need of reform for years as a result of continued reductions to local authority budgets, increasing needs of older disabled people and their families and increasing cost pressures. The pandemic has further highlighted this, where residential care homes in particular have been disproportionately affected by Covid and it has really shone a light on this sector in caring for the most vulnerable citizens in our society and ensuring they continue to receive the care and support they need. Whilst there has been some additional investment into adult social care during Covid this has only been temporary and will do nothing to address the underlying problem. Whilst there is a lot of work to be done, the White Paper is welcome in that there is a focus on integration and innovation and the impetus to work together across health and social care and that is welcome in acknowledging the need for change and improving that integration. However, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services has calculated social care needs investment of £1.3bn just to cover demographic and inflationary pressures nationally in this year to remain sustainable in 2021/22. Without this funding and recognition of the need for parity of esteem with the NHS and parity of funding none of us can feel reassured that a sustainable future for adult social care is there in terms of funding. We can get a better deal for citizens with a more integrated way of working where we are jointly working to get better outcomes for people in the City but we really need sustainable arrangements to fund social care to do that. The costs of increasing pressures due to an older population and some areas which have markedly different health and wellbeing outcomes are being put on the backs of local taxpayers. Adult social care funding which is a hotch potch of short term injections with no real long term plan and is well overdue the systemic overhaul that practitioners and politicians of all stripes know it needs. The Conservatives have been holding this ball for many many years now so it is really not good enough to be shaking their heads and saying how difficult it is. In the Budget we were told they were waiting for a cross-party consensus to be built and there already is one: we all know that what we have now is not working and there is a growing consensus that the current strategy of pushing the problem onto hard pressed local taxpayers isn’t the fix that the country needs. I would ask the Opposition to join us in asking the Government to put adult social care on a sustainable footing and I will share a letter with them that I would ask them to sign and stand with us and with politicians of all stripes to say we need better funding for adult social care, we need this to be sustainable and we need a better deal for our citizens and a better deal for the carers who have put their health on the line looking after vulnerable people in our City.

Key worker pay

Councillor Nick Raine asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

Does the Leader agree that Nottingham's key workers, the true heroes of the Covid pandemic deserve much, much better than a pay cut from the Chancellor?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank Councillor Raine for his question. On Wednesday Rishi Sunak delivered the long awaited 2021 Budget and in doing so announced the temporary extension of the £20 per week Universal Credit uplift via a one off payment and confirmed that the furlough scheme with support for the self-employed will continue until the end of September. Everyone on this Council will know that in January I wrote to the Chancellor urging him to extend the £20 per week uplift and this will, in the short term at least, give the people of Nottingham some reassurance although it falls way short of making it permanent. Like many at Council I have stood on my doorstep or outside the gates of a local care home and applauded the efforts of key workers who have given absolutely everything and, in some cases, their lives over the past year to keep the public safe. At the start of the pandemic people across the country gained a renewed sense of appreciation for the workers who kept the world going. Customers thanked supermarket staff, applauded the delivery vans and painted rainbows in their windows to thank the NHS. Our gratitude for their efforts is not enough however, so when the Government announced a 1% pay increase for NHS staff, slipping the news out the day after the Budget signalling it as a sign of the Government's gratitude for their service during the pandemic their efforts were met with an insult from their Government. The Chancellor pledged to give the NHS whatever it takes to fight Covid-19 yet there was no sign of an increase to core funding in Wednesday's Budget. Yet more broken promises. None of the recognition has translated into pay rises, no extra holidays, no extended sick pay. Let me be clear, a 1% increase for NHS staff is expected to be a real terms pay cut after inflation. For all other public sector workers who have worked tirelessly across our City, keeping people safe no increase at all in fact a pay freeze. What is clear is that the heroic efforts of keyworkers up and down the country and here in Nottingham streets and parks and care homes, bin lorries, telephone lines, food parcel delivery services they have been rewarded with a cut in their income in real terms by this Government. They have been left with the bill for the costs of the pandemic. Clapping on the steps of Downing Street is easy and cheap, failure to reward those heroes of our nation is apparently too expensive for Mr Sunak and Mr Johnson.

In November last year the Chancellor said that there would be no return to austerity in his upcoming Spending Review but let me take a moment to describe how this Government is driving public services into further austerity, particularly in relation to day to day departmental spending which is the money spent on employing staff and delivering routine services like social care and policing. On Wednesday the Chancellor announced that departmental spending is rising but not as fast as was planned before the pandemic. What he didn't mention in his speech, just like the paltry NHS pay rise, was that his budget plans included a roughly £4m a year cut in departmental spending starting in 2022/23. This follows a £13bn reduction in those departmental budgets in last year's Spending Review. The implication is that by

2023/24 those departmental budgets will be some £16bn lower than they were projected to be before the pandemic. As we know that £16bn cuts hit unprotected departments, such as the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Having reviewed the Chancellor's announcement on Wednesday the Office for Budget Responsibility has said that all unprotected departments such as MHCLG are facing a cut in this autumn Spending Review for 2022/23 which comes on the back of a decade long series of cuts to local government. For us in local government we are now faced with 77% less departmental day to day spending than we had in 2010. The pandemic has led many of us to think in a new way about what is essential and, more importantly, about the risks those essential workers took to keep us fed, cared for, taught and protected. The pandemic is a reminder that our lives are in the hands of so many people whose work has for so long been underpaid. Economic recovery and ensuring public services are sustainable should go hand in hand. Both are essential to the kind of society we want to live in. When we rebuild, public services should be at the heart of that recovery. It is a kick in the teeth for all of our key workers who are now expected to tighten their belts as a reward for serving our nation.

The meeting adjourned at 15:35 and reconvened at 15:45.

78 Decisions taken under Urgency Procedures

Councillor David Mellen, Leader of the Council, presented the report detailing urgent decisions that the Council is required to note, which have been taken under provisions within the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and Access to Information Rules. The report was seconded by Councillor Sally Longford.

Resolved to note:

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

Decision Reference Number	Date of Decision	Subject	Value of Decision	Reason for Urgency
4098	21/01/2021	To approve receipt of funding and allocation of match funding for energy efficiency improvements	£5,466,869.95	A tight timescale was imposed on the Council by the funders. Acceptance of funding was required by 21 January. If the funding had not been accepted by this deadline, the funding would have been lost.
4109	05/02/2021	Adult social care workforce	£383,000	Given the rapidly worsening Covid-19 situation, the

Decision Reference Number	Date of Decision	Subject	Value of Decision	Reason for Urgency
		requirements due to the Covid-19 pandemic		provision of reablement support needed to be extended. In order to extend staff contracts, notice had to be given to staff within a specific timescale. If notice had not been given to staff within that time period there would have been a risk that staff may have been lost and a recruitment exercise would have been required, involving time delays and additional cost; and some or all of the reablement support would not have been provided causing potential risks to the health of citizens.
4116	10/02/2021	Green Home Grants Local Authority Delivery Phase 2	£60.95m	Details of the grant funding conditions from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy were delayed but the Department did not revise the timescales to take this into account and therefore the decision making and project timescales were compressed.

Decision Reference Number	Date of Decision	Subject	Value of Decision	Reason for Urgency
				Delay in the decision could have jeopardised the funding and delivery of the programme.
4125	22/02/2021	Adult Social Care Workforce Capacity Fund	£775,014	There was short notice of the grant award and a tight timescale for delivery, so any delay would have created a risk that the allocation and spend would not have been completed by the deadline, resulting in funding being returned to the Department for Health and Social Care.
4126	22/02/2021	Allocation of Adult Social Care Rapid Testing Funding	£639,400	There was short notice of the grant award and a tight timescale for delivery, so any delay would have created a risk that the allocation and spend would not have been completed by the deadline, resulting in funding being returned to the Department for Health and Social Care.
Executive Board Minute Ref:83	23/02/2021	Budget 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Outlook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Revenue Account 	£1.1m	In order to meet requirements of the Housing Act 1985 to give tenants 28 days notice of rent increases.

Decision Reference Number	Date of Decision	Subject	Value of Decision	Reason for Urgency
		budget 2021/22 element		

(2) that there were no decisions taken under the Special Urgency Procedure during this period.

79 Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 and Capital Strategy 2021/22

Councillor Sam Webster, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Growth and the City Centre, presented the report seeking approval of strategies relating to treasury management and capital investment in 2021/22. The strategies had been endorsed by Executive Board at its meeting on 23 February 2021. The report was seconded by Councillor David Mellen.

Resolved to:

- (1) approve the 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy, including the Strategy for Debt Repayment and the Investment Strategy, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;**
- (2) approve the prudential indicators and limits from 2021/22 to 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix 1, section 5.1 to the report;**
- (3) adopt the current Treasury Management Policy Statement, as detailed in Appendix 1, section 5.3 to the report; and**
- (4) approve the 2021/22 Capital Strategy including the Voluntary Debt Reduction Policy Statement, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.**

80 Budget 2021/22

In the interests of transparency, Councillors Steve Battlemuch and Anne Peach declared that they were trustees of the Nottingham Playhouse Board. This did not prevent them from remaining in the room during consideration of the proposals and voting on this item.

Councillor Sam Webster, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Growth and the City Centre, presented the report setting out proposals for the revenue budget 2021/22, capital programme to 2025/26 and level of council tax for 2021/22. The report was seconded by Councillor David Mellen.

Councillor David Mellen, seconded by Councillor Sam Webster, proposed an amendment to the proposals, as set out below:

In recommendation 2.1(1) add after “the revenue budget for 2021/22”

“subject to the following:

	Net 2021/22 £
Reduce the amount of workforce and other savings that do not require public consultation from £4.659m to £4.577m, removing a Children and Young People proposal in relation to the Missing Children’s Team	81,715
Remove the Leisure, Culture and IT consultation proposal to introduce a Charge for use of city centre toilets	45,000
Reduce the Leisure, Culture and IT consultation proposal in relation to external grants to cultural partners from £107,000 to £50,370	56,630
Use an additional £183,345 of the earmarked Resilience Reserve in order to balance the 2021/22 budget, in light of the proposed amendments above	-183,345
Total Net Financial Impact	0”

And amend the following recommendations as indicated:

- In recommendation 2.1(3)(a) replace £990,599,900 with £990,738,245;
- In recommendation 2.1(3)(b) replace £864,543,774 with £864,682,119

Councillors voted on the proposed amendment.

Resolved to approve the amendment proposed by Councillor Mellen.

Councillor Andrew Rule, seconded by Councillor Kevin Clarke, proposed a further amendment, as set out below:

In recommendation 2.1(1) add after “the revenue budget for 2021/22”

“subject to the following:

	Net 2021/22 £
Section 1	
Reduction in the number of Special Responsibility Positions for Executive Assistants	-34,740
Voluntary Garden Waste (4 extra garden waste collections a year charged at £10, for those residents who wish to subscribe)	-196,100
Reduction in payments to Trade Unions specifically for facility time (based on a 25% budget reduction, partial year)	-52,940
Bulky Waste – Citizens offered one free collection per annum, charges of £15 apply for further collections to fund council tax reductions for all citizens (based on 50% take up)	-219,110

Release uncommitted Area Capital reserves (one off)	-952,500
Total Net Financial Impact	-1,455,390

Section 2

It is recommended that reviews of the following areas be undertaken:

- Review of impact on the City Council in the event the Tram Operator fails
- Review of alternative financing methods to Work Place Parking Levy
- Audit of availability payments made to operator accurately reflect operational performance
- Urgent review of waste disposal strategy post 2030
- Review of parking and traffic enforcement exemptions – NHS City Care Staff, Council employed carers, first responders and on duty emergency personnel
- Assessment of inefficiencies arising from Internal Charging within City Council
- Urgent review of parking charges on economy of City Centre
- Review of asset transfer and use of community trusts for safeguard community assets – specifically and immediately for Summerwood Adult Day Centre in Clifton, in order to prevent the imminent threat of closure
- Review of voluntary and third sector access to Youth Centres to improve utilisation
- Review of membership of Companies Governance Committee
- Review of commercialisation opportunities within Tree Services
- Area Capital allocation formula
- Develop a strategy for increasing the mix of affordable homes as a means of increasing the City Council’s Council Tax Base
- Identify and pursue commercialisation opportunities with other local authorities”

In recommendation 2.1 (2) add after “the capital programme to 2025/26”

“subject to the following:

It is recommended that a review of the existing capital programme be undertaken to:

- Reprioritise resources to create additional funds to improve pavements. Councillors who use Area Capital Fund to improve pavements on main thoroughfares could seek match funding from this fund.
- Reprioritise to fund repairs to roads across the City”

And amend the following recommendations as indicated:

- In recommendation 2.1 (3) replace £126,056,126 with £124,600,736;
- In recommendation 2.1 (3) (a) replace amended £990,738,245 with £989,794,510;
- In recommendation 2.1 (3) (b) replace amended £864,682,119 with £865,193,774;
- In recommendation 2.1 (3) (c) replace £126,056,126 with £124,600,736;
- In recommendation 2.1 (4) replace £1,898.55 with £1,876.63

And amend the following sections as indicated:

- In section 5.2 replace £126,056,126 with £124,600,736 and £1,898.55 with £1,876.63
- In section 5.3 and 5.6 substitute the following basic amounts of council tax for the ones shown in the report:

Band	Basic Amount of Council Tax
A	£1,251.09
B	£1,459.60
C	£1,668.12
D	£1,876.63
E	£2,293.66
F	£2,710.69
G	£3,127.72
H	£3,753.26

- In section 5.6 substitute the following aggregate council taxes for those shown in the report:

Band	Aggregate
A	£1,458.21
B	£1,701.24
C	£1,944.28
D	£2,187.31
E	£2,673.38
F	£3,159.45
G	£3,645.52
H	£4,374.62

The meeting was adjourned at 17:25 to allow time for councillors to consider the proposed amendment. The meeting resumed at 17:45.

Councillors voted on the proposed amendment.

Resolved to reject the amendment proposed by Councillor Rule.

Councillors debated the budget report, as amended by Councillor Mellen.

Councillors voted on the recommendations in the amended budget report as follows:

	For	Against	Abstain
Councillor Leslie Ayoola	✓		
Councillor Cheryl Barnard	✓		
Councillor Steve Battlemuch	✓		
Councillor Merlita Bryan	✓		
Councillor Graham Chapman	✓		
Councillor Azad Choudhry	✓		
Councillor Kevin Clarke		✓	
Councillor Michael Edwards	✓		
Councillor Sam Gardiner	✓		
Councillor Jay Hayes	✓		

Councillor Rosemary Healy	✓		
Councillor Nicola Heaton	✓		
Councillor Patience Ifediora	✓		
Councillor Kirsty Jones		✓	
Councillor Angela Kandola	✓		
Councillor Jawaid Khalil	✓		
Councillor Gul Nawaz Khan	✓		
Councillor Neghat Nawaz Khan	✓		
Councillor Zafran Nawaz Khan	✓		
Councillor Pavlos Kotsonis	✓		
Councillor Jane Lakey	✓		
Councillor Rebecca Langton	✓		
Councillor Dave Liversidge	✓		
Councillor Sally Longford	✓		
Councillor AJ Matsiko	✓		
Councillor Carole McCulloch	✓		
Councillor David Mellen	✓		
Councillor Sajid Mohammed	✓		
Councillor Salma Mumtaz	✓		
Councillor Toby Neal	✓		
Councillor Anne Peach	✓		
Councillor Georgia Power	✓		
Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos	✓		
Councillor Ethan Radford	✓		
Councillor Nick Raine	✓		
Councillor Angharad Roberts	✓		
Councillor Andrew Rule		✓	
Councillor Mohammed Saghir	✓		
Councillor Wendy Smith	✓		
Councillor Dave Trimble	✓		
Councillor Maria Watson		✓	
Councillor Sam Webster	✓		
Councillor Adele Williams	✓		
Councillor Linda Woodings	✓		
Councillor Cate Woodward	✓		
Councillor Audra Wynter	✓		

Resolved to

(1) approve the revenue budget for 2021/22,

subject to the following

Reduce the amount of workforce and other savings that do not require public consultation from £4.659m to £4.577m, removing a Children and Young People proposal in relation to the Missing Children's Team

**Net
2021/22
£
81,715**

Remove the Leisure, Culture and IT consultation proposal to introduce a charge for use of city centre toilets	45,000
Reduce the Leisure, Culture and IT consultation proposal in relation to external grants to cultural partners from £107,000 to £50,370	56,630
Use an additional £183,345 of the earmarked Resilience Reserve in order to balance the 2021/22 budget, in light of the proposed amendments above	-183,345
Total Net Financial Impact	0

including:

- a. the recommendations of the Strategic Director of Finance/ Chief Finance Officer in respect of the robustness of the estimates made for the purpose of the budget calculations and the adequacy of reserves;
- b. the delegation of authority to the Strategic Director of Finance/ Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Growth and the City Centre, to finalise the 2021/22 budget for publication;
- c. the delegation of authority to the Corporate Leadership Team to implement savings after undertaking the appropriate consultation; and
- d. the retention of the Council Tax Support Scheme, currently in operation, for the financial year 2021/22

(2) approve the capital programme to 2025/26;

(3) approve a council tax requirement of £126,056,126 including the calculations required by Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (“the Act”), as set out below:

- a. £990,738,245 being the aggregate of the expenditure, allowances, reserves and amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act;
- b. £864,682,119 being the aggregate of the income and amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act;
- c. £126,056,126 being the amount by which the aggregate at (3)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (3)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year

(4) approve a City Council Band D basic amount of council tax for 2021/22 of £1,898.55 being the amount at (3)(c) divided by the amount at (9) below, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (as set out in section 5 of the report)

- (5) approve the setting of the amounts of council tax for 2021/22 at the levels described in the report**
- (6) approve the making of the Members Allowances Scheme for 2021/22 in the terms of the previously adopted and amended Scheme, save for adjustments to mirror nationally determined rates of pay awards and travel and subsistence (as applicable to officers) and for carers allowances**
- (7) note a Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority precept at Band D for 2021/22 of £82.95**
- (8) note a Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner precept at Band D for 2021/22 of £244.26**
- (9) note that in January 2021 the City Council calculated the amount of 66,396 as its council tax base for the year 2021/22 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base)(England) Regulations 2012**

The meeting adjourned at 19:07 and resumed at 19:17.

81 One Nottingham and the Nottingham Plan to 2020 Final Report

Councillor Rebecca Langton, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Highways and Strategic Transport, presented the report asking Council to note the One Nottingham and Nottingham Plan to 2020 Final Report. The report was seconded by Councillor David Mellen.

Resolved to note the One Nottingham and Nottingham Plan to 2020 Final Report, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

82 Amendments to the Constitution

Councillor Audra Wynter, Chair of Audit Committee, presented the report proposing amendments to non-executive aspects of the Council's Constitution, including the terms of reference for the Audit Committee and Councillor Code of Conduct. The report was seconded by Councillor Neghat Khan, Chair of Standards Committee.

Resolved to

- (1) adopt a revised Councillor Code of Conduct, as set out in Appendix A to the report, to replace the current Councillor's Code of Conduct and Co-opted Members' Code of Conduct, and to amend the Constitution accordingly;**
- (2) adopt a revised Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee, as set out in Appendix B to the report, and to amend the Constitution accordingly; and**

- (3) re-designate the statutory responsibility of the Director of Adult Social Services to the post of Corporate Director for People, and to amend the Constitution accordingly.**

83 Pay Policy Statement 2021-22

Councillor Dave Liversidge, Chair of the Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee, presented the report proposing approval of the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22. The report was seconded by Councillor David Mellen.

Resolved to

- (1) approve and endorse the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22; and**
- (2) note that the Statement may need to be amended in-year for any necessary changes the Council may wish to adopt. Any such changes will be presented to Full Council for approval.**

84 Committee membership changes

The following committee membership changes were noted:

- (1) Councillor Sajid Mohammed had resigned as a member of the Regulatory and Appeals Committee;
- (2) Councillor Angela Kandola had resigned as a member of the Health Scrutiny Committee;
- (3) Councillor Angela Kandola had been appointed to a vacant seat on the Health and Wellbeing Board; and
- (4) Councillor Lauren O'Grady had been appointed as a member of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

85 Dates of future meetings

Resolved to

- (1) hold the Annual General Meeting on Monday 26 April at 2pm remotely on Zoom and livestreamed on the Council's YouTube Channel; and**
- (2) note the proposal to meet at 2pm on the following Mondays:**
 - a. 12 July 2021**
 - b. 13 September 2021**
 - c. 8 November 2021**
 - d. 10 January 2022**
 - e. 7 March 2022**

The Meeting concluded at 7.34 pm

Responses to questions from Councillors requiring a written response

WQ1

Written question to be asked by Councillor Andrew Rule of the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Schools and Communications at the meeting of the City Council to be held on 8 March 2021

Can the Portfolio Holder provide a breakdown of Council owned property (excluding housing stock) sold since November 2020, on a property by property basis and provide the sale consideration received against the last recorded book value?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

In response the table below provides the detail requested: Assets sold between 01.11.2020 and 09.03.2021

As you will note the book value in some cases cannot be provided, the reason for this is that often assets which are located adjacent or in close proximity to each other are grouped together to be valued for accounting purposes, purely for reasons of efficiency. This means that we would not always have individual asset values.

In addition, not every asset is valued every year as they are valued on a 5 year rolling programme hence why the date of the book valuation has been provided.

Address	Book Value £ (date of valuation)	Sale Price £	Comments
14 Gervase Gardens, Clifton	Valuation for 1, 2 & 4-40 Gervase Gardens (unable to split), value £0.023m (31-Mar-20)	2,000	Book Value forms part of a larger asset group, no individual asset value
15 Gervase Gardens, Clifton	Valuation for 1, 2 & 4-40 Gervase Gardens (unable to split), value £0.023m (31-Mar-20)	3,000	Book Value forms part of a larger asset group, no individual asset value
112 to 128 Derby Road, Nottingham	Unable to split 62-82, 88-94 & 106-128 Derby Road assets grouped, combined value £1.509m (31-Mar-20)	1,300,000	Book Value forms part of a larger asset group, no individual asset value
106 Derby Road, Nottingham	Unable to split 62-82, 88-94 & 106-128 Derby Road assets grouped, combined value £1.509m (31-Mar-20)	48,000	Book Value forms part of a larger asset group, no individual asset value
Trent Farm, Long Eaton (paddock)	£0.243m (31-Mar-20)	40,000	Book Value forms part of a larger asset group, no individual asset value
Glaisdale Dr East, Nottingham	£0.290m (31-Mar-17)	570,000	Market has moved significantly in last 3 yrs since Book Value set
Land at Crocus Street, Nottingham	£0.162m (31-Mar-20)	140,000	Further overage receipt anticipated
60 Carlton Road, Nottingham	Unable to split 60, 62 & 64 Carlton Road assets	202,000	Book Value forms part of a larger asset group, no

	grouped, combined value £1.000m (31-Mar-20)		individual asset value
5 Holgate, Clifton	£0.082m (31-Mar-20)	202,000	Very strong bidding in auction
289 Main Street, Bulwell	£0.082m (31-Mar-20)	100,000	
293 Main Street, Bulwell	£0.030m (31-Mar-20)	50,000	
308a Colwick Low Rd, Nottingham	£0.092m (31-Mar-20)	390,000	Very strong bidding in auction
Part of former Denewood Centre, Denewood Crescent, Nottingham	£0.770m (31-Mar-20)	760,000	

WQ2

Written question to be asked by Councillor Andrew Rule of the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Schools and Communications at the meeting of the City Council to be held on 8 March 2021

The Portfolio Holder will be aware of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Growth and the City Centre's repeated statements about the freezing of non-essential Council spend. Could he therefore provide a breakdown of the top 10 items of non-essential spend cut from his Portfolio since the emergency budget last year?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

In 2017/18 the Council implemented a range of management actions and spending controls to mitigate potential overspends and these remain in place today. These have included a range of measures such as reducing contingency balances, reviews of earmarked reserves, reduced revenue contribution to the capital programme, vacancy controls, stop to non-essential spend, reductions to maintenance spend and restrictions on hospitality, training, travel and conferences.

Budget Managers are accountable for delivering their services within budget and are responsible for ensuring that the spending controls are adhered to.

Expenditure within the Finance system records type of expenditure but the categorisation between essential or non-essential spend will be different depending on the service, examples are, training for one area may be non-essential but for another service essential in a particular circumstance and the holding of vacancies aligned to grant funded services would impact on the maximisation in the use of grants and the impact on the outcomes associated with the grant conditions.

Budget Managers continue to forecast monthly capturing any underspends from the controls that are applicable to the service they are providing.

WQ3

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 8 March 2021

Could the Portfolio Holder provide a breakdown of the number of empty commercial properties in the City Centre on a month by month basis from March 2020 to February 2021 and what this equates to in terms of lost rates revenue?

Councillor Sam Webster replied as follows:

We do not measure vacancies in the city centre on a month by month basis. The most recent reliable data is just before the pandemic, which showed a vacancy rate in the city as follows: Total Retail Units Surveyed 1311, 200 vacant which is a 15.26% vacancy rate. However, these figures include Broadmarsh. If we remove Broadmarsh units which are 'under development' a more accurate figure is 1311 – minus 69 units under = 1242 total surveyed, with 131 vacant so a rate of 10.55% vacancy.

We know that there have been many businesses choosing to give up their leases or cease trading during the global pandemic. It must be noted however, that until shops reopen as part of the Government's Roadmap, we are unable to provide an accurate figure.

With regards to business rates, the owner of the property is still liable for rates, so the rates income base line will not have changed unless there is a change of use and a re-valuation. This is unlikely due to the valuation office being constrained in their working.

It is worth noting however that all retail, leisure and hospitality businesses had zero rated rates bills for April 2020 -March 2021, as a result of Government policy related to the pandemic.

WQ4

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 8 March 2021

The Portfolio Holder will be aware of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Growth and the City Centre's repeated statements about the freezing of non-essential Council spend. Could he therefore provide a breakdown of the top 10 items of non-essential spend cut from this Portfolio since the emergency budget last year?

Councillor Dave Trimble replied as follows:

In 2017/18 the Council implemented a range of management actions and spending controls to mitigate potential overspends and these remain in place today. These have included a range of measures such as reducing contingency balances, reviews of earmarked reserves, reduced revenue contribution to the capital programme,

vacancy controls, stop to non-essential spend, reductions to maintenance spend and training, travel and conferences.

Budget Managers are accountable for delivering their services within budget and are responsible for ensuring that the spending controls are adhered to.

Following the emergency budget set and ahead of the budgets agreed for 2021/22, in addition to the measures highlighted above, the following temporary spending mitigations were also implemented which included:

- reduction in cleaning and chemical supplies purchased due to the continued lock down of leisure centres;
- reduction across buildings of internal cleaning whilst not operational;
- deferment of inspections where these were not health and safety critical;
- cancellation of events and associated marketing spend;
- reduction of horticultural work on park sites or for detailed floral bed planting schemes;
- reduction in book purchases during the lockdown for libraries;
- deferment where possible of any other discretionary expenditure items across the service that were not contractual.

Expenditure within the Finance system records type of expenditure but the categorisation between essential or non-essential spend will be different depending on the service, examples are, training for one area may be non-essential but for another service essential in a particular circumstance and spend associated with income generation where there is a positive budget impact.

Budget Managers continue to forecast monthly capturing any underspends from the controls that are applicable to the service they are providing.
