

# Public Document Pack

## Minutes of the meeting of the City Council

held at the Council Chamber - at the Council House

on 4 March 2024 from 2.00 pm - 9.35 pm

### Attendances:

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✓ Councillor Carole McCulloch (Lord Mayor)	
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✓ Councillor Saj Ahmad	✓ Councillor Sam Lux
✓ Councillor Liaqat Ali	✓ Councillor Sulcan Mahmood
✓ Councillor Leslie Ayoola	Councillor Farzana Mahmood
✓ Councillor Cheryl Barnard	✓ Councillor AJ Matsiko
✓ Councillor Steve Battlemuch	✓ Councillor David Mellen
✓ Councillor Graham Chapman	✓ Councillor Sajid Mohammed
✓ Councillor Kevin Clarke	✓ Councillor Fozia Mubashar
Councillor Audrey Dinnall	✓ Councillor Salma Mumtaz
✓ Councillor Michael Edwards	Councillor Sana Nasir
✓ Councillor Nadia Farhat	Councillor Devontay Okure
Councillor Faith Gakanje-Ajala	✓ Councillor Nayab Patel
Councillor Samuel Gardiner	✓ Councillor Georgia Power
Councillor Sam Harris	✓ Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos
✓ Councillor Jay Hayes	✓ Councillor Ethan Radford
✓ Councillor Patience Uloma Ifediora	Councillor Nick Raine
✓ Councillor Imran Jalil	✓ Councillor Eunice Regan
✓ Councillor Corall Jenkins	Councillor Sarita-Marie Rehman-Wall
✓ Councillor Maria Joannou	✓ Councillor Samina Riaz
✓ Councillor Kirsty Jones	✓ Councillor Andrew Rule
✓ Councillor Kirsty L Jones	✓ Councillor Naim Salim
Councillor Helen Kalsi	✓ Councillor Michael Savage
✓ Councillor Angela Kandola	✓ Councillor Matt Shannon
✓ Councillor Anwar Khan	✓ Councillor Hayley Spain
Councillor Zafran Nawaz Khan	✓ Councillor Maria Watson
✓ Councillor Gul Nawaz Khan	✓ Councillor Adele Williams
✓ Councillor Neghat Khan	✓ Councillor Linda Woodings
✓ Councillor Pavlos Kotsonis	✓ Councillor Audra Wynter

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✓ Indicates present at meeting

### 76 Order of Business

**In accordance with Standing Order 12.17, resolved to amend the order of business for the meeting to move Motion in the name of Councillor David Mellen to become item 9 on the agenda.**

### 77 Apologies for absence

Councillor Audrey Dinnall – unwell

Councillor Faith Gakanje-Ajala – personal  
Councillor Sam Gardiner – personal  
Councillor Sam Harris – personal  
Councillor Helen Kalsi – personal  
Councillor Zafran Khan – unwell  
Councillor Farzanna Mahmood – personal  
Councillor Sana Nasir – leave  
Councillor Devontay Okure – personal  
Councillor Nick Raine – personal  
Councillor Sarita-Marie Rehman-Wall - personal

## **78 Declarations of Interests**

In relation to item 2024/25 Budget and Council Tax Resolution (minute reference 86), in the interests of transparency:

- Councillor Leslie Ayoola stated that he is a board member of Marketing Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and Blueprint
- Councillor Michael Edwards stated that he is a member of the Queens Walk Community Association Management Committee and Chair of the Meadows Advice Centre
- Councillor Nadia Farhat declared a Sensitive Interest
- Councillor Jay Hayes stated that he is a committee member of Bestwood Advice Centre
- Councillor Angela Kandola stated that she is a board member of the Indian Community Centre Association
- Councillor David Mellen stated that he is the Chair of the Bakersfield and Neighbourhood Community Association
- Councillor Georgia Power stated that she is a director of Bestwood Partnership
- Councillor Eunice Regan stated that she is a member of the Queens Walk Community Association Management Committee and Meadows Advice Centre
- Councillor Matt Shannon stated that he is a trustee of the Renewal Trust
- Councillor Adele Williams stated that a member of her family works for an organisation partially funded by the Council
- Councillor Linda Woodings stated that she is a member of the Nottingham City of Literature Board

## **79 Questions from citizens**

### **Social housing maintenance and repair**

A citizen asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Housing:  
Please could you explain why Nottingham City Council Housing Services has got progressively worse since Nottingham City Council took it back under its control? It was not a good service before, but now it's truly poor. There are never ending queues, not only to get through to the Repair Call Centre but for tenants also to get essential work done (if at all). There are not enough operatives, high sickness rates, and many other problems. This results in a terrible knock-on effect for tenants, and at the same time rents and service charges go up considerably annually (7.7% rent increase plus an added 6.7% service charge increase this year as well as other charges). As social housing tenants, we have no way of making our voices heard. I

would please ask how and when Nottingham City Council will improve these matters, as Nottingham City Council is now fully responsible?

Councillor Jay Hayes replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor, and thank you to this citizen for the question. The City Council recognises that the housing service under Nottingham City Homes needed improvement to deliver the standards that tenants and the Council expect, and therefore it was brought back in-house last year. Since then we have developed a new housing service within the Council and we are currently implementing our service improvement plans. It will take some time for these plans to work and build up a good quality service that our tenants can trust. At the Executive Board meeting in February, the Housing Revenue Account business plan was approved and additional resources have been included in the budget for the next financial year to implement the service changes and improvements that are needed. The citizen mentions the rent increase. This rent increase is the maximum that is allowed under the Social Housing Regulator. This increase will be covered by the Local Housing Allowance and Housing Benefit for those who are in receipt of benefits, but there is also a Hardship Fund to support those who do not qualify for any help through our Tenancy Sustainability Team. The Council is committed to engagement and an accountable service. At last month's meeting of the Housing and City Development Scrutiny Committee I presented a report about the new Tenant Engagement Board. This Board is in the process of being set up. We will have tenants on Board, engaging with us as the Council, holding myself as Portfolio Holder and officers to account, helping us to improve the service and deliver a robust service for our tenants. While the service is not where we want it to be and there are a lot of issues inherited from Nottingham City Homes since we brought it in-house, I can assure the citizen that officers are working incredibly hard in implementing new ways of working, improving the system and engaging with tenants and we will continue to do that so that the tenants have a sustainable and good quality housing service that they deserve. Thank you.

## **80 Petitions from Councillors on behalf of citizens**

Councillor Kevin Clarke presented a petition on behalf of residents about parking problems on Greencroft, Clifton, NG11 8FD and surrounding roads, and requesting the installation of a resident parking scheme or restricted line enforcement.

Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos presented a petition on behalf of residents calling on the Council to immediately launch a campaign to secure direct support from Central Government in order to avoid any further cuts to jobs and services.

## **81 To confirm the minutes of the last meeting of Council held on 15 January 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2024 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

## **82 To receive official communications and announcements from the Leader of the Council and/or the Chief Executive**

The Chief Executive made the following announcements:

I am pleased to report that the final legal step to establish the East Midlands Combined County Authority has been signed and made into law. The Levelling Up Minister signed the regulations on 27 February that allow the new combined authority to be created. It means that residents across the area, including Nottingham, will get to vote for the very first East Midlands Mayor, with elections taking place on 2 May. The new combined county authority is part of a wider devolution deal that will see the region benefit from a £1.14billion investment package, spread over a 30 year period, alongside devolved powers around transport, housing, skills and adult education, economic development and net zero. This is an historic moment for the region and the extra funding coming into the area, alongside the devolved powers, will make a huge difference to the region, bringing in more investment in skills, jobs and housing. This is about improving local people's lives and creating new opportunities for our communities across the East Midlands.

I'd like to pay tribute to the fantastic talents of Nottingham actor, Samantha Morton, who last month was awarded one of the most prestigious honours in her profession. Samantha was handed the BAFTA Fellowship, which is the arts charity's highest accolade and presented in recognition of 'an outstanding and exceptional contribution to film, games or television'. Her credits span independent British cinema to Hollywood blockbusters, television and theatre. We remain incredibly proud of her achievements.

Malcolm Townroe, Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer, will be leaving the Authority at the end of April, after 35 years service to the Council. Malcolm held the role of Head of Legal Services for a number of years and during that time was involved in some of the Council's larger development projects. Since 2017 he has been the Director of Legal and Governance and the Council's Monitoring Officer. As one of the Council's statutory officers, Malcolm has played a key role in promoting high standards of conduct and providing advice to officers and councillors. I would like to thank him for his service to the Council over many years and wish him well for the future.

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

None

**84 Questions from Councillors - to a member of Executive Board, the Chair of a Committee and the Chair of any other City Council body**

**Local Government Funding**

Councillor Samina Riaz asked the following question of the Leader of the Council: Does the Leader of the Council agree that Nottingham needs emergency no-string funding from Central Government to enable us to maintain services for all our citizens as asked by the City's MPs and would he thank Resolve Nottingham, a coalition of 140 city organisations, for their support for the Council in asking Government for additional funding?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor, and can I thank Councillor Riaz for your question. I agree with you. We certainly need someone to come to our rescue because there simply isn't enough money in this Council to run the services our citizens depend on - not this year, not next year and not until we get the funding we deserve. Its not just this Council, but councils across our land. You're going to hear this a lot today, but it bears repeating: this callous and cruel-hearted Government has brought local government in this country to its knees. I would like to be clear on one point right at the start – this is not a Nottingham problem. This is a national problem caused by a government that has failed to fix social care, caused massive inflation, and generated a cost-of-living crisis that has seen soaring rates of homelessness. A failure of Central Government, but for some reason the buck stops with us – Nottingham City Council, and the people we represent. We are the ones that must pick up the pieces of their broken Britain without the resources to do so. I'm afraid, Lord-Mayor, that this is a bad day for Nottingham and for this Council, at a meeting has been convened to approve huge cuts to our services and put people who work for our Council out of a job. Years of Tory underfunding of councils has led us to this day - years of austerity, years of rising prices and inflation and years of a broken care system. So yes, we need a miracle right now and if that meant, Councillor Riaz, no-strings funding from the Government then I would certainly welcome it. However Lord-Mayor, I'm not holding my breath because with this government there is no such thing as no-strings funding. In order to balance our budget today not only do we have to make sweeping cuts to our services, we have had to ask the Government for exceptional financial support to fill the gap that continues to open up before us. It is not money, it is certainly not a bailout. All that we have had approved is the economically nonsensical permission to sell buildings and land and use that for everyday expenditure. The £66.1million permission over two years we receive as exceptional financial support is less than the money we have lost each and every year in the last decade - £100million less a year than it was a decade ago. Hundreds of millions of pounds of funding for services has been lost under this Conservative Government. We received agreement for exceptional financial support for Government last week, but only 'in principle' and there are most definitely strings attached. In order to gain this financial support we must vote for every cut, every service reduction, every redundancy contained within the budget proposals, and only then will the Government allow us to sell our own properties and buildings and allow us to use this money to plug the gap as a one-off measure. This is without doubt a short-sighted approach to running a council, or indeed running any organisation, or even running your own household. You can only sell the silverware once. Once it's gone, it's gone. So, in the face of a lack of real response from this uncaring Government I'm really grateful to Resolve Nottingham for their leadership, collecting over 11,000 signatures on a petition that calls on the Government and on Michael Gove in particular to provide immediate no-strings financial support in order to fund the way forward. This petition was handed in at Number 10 Downing Street on Friday and I want to say thank to all those involved in the mammoth effort to show the Government that the people of Nottingham understand that the current crisis is not down to decisions that the Council has made, but down to a huge underfunding of the Council. This is hugely important Lord-Mayor. People will point at me and say "well I expect the Labour Leader of a Council to blame the Conservative Government for our problems" but the Resolve Nottingham petition does not originate with the Council. It is led by businesses, by charities, by community groups and the citizens of Nottingham standing up to be counted, and we are grateful. Like us here today, they have said enough is enough. We heard their voices on Friday on the steps of Downing Street, just as we heard the

voices outside today on the steps of the Council House. No one wants this for Nottingham. No one wants this for our country. As I said earlier, this is a day that will be remembered by our city. Sadly, it will be for all the wrong reasons.

### **Commissioners**

Councillor Nayab Patel asked the following question of the Leader of the Council: Could the Leader of the Council confirm that with the appointment of unelected commissioners by the Government, what the implications of this are including cost on our residents and Nottingham?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor, and can I thank Councillor Patel for her question. The Government is intervening in a number of councils across the country, and in each case the Council and the taxpayers in the areas receiving the intervention have to meet the costs of those sent in by the Government. This is the case for each of the councils involved. It might seem strange that this is the case when councils are counting every penny, and in Nottingham today making budget cuts, but these are the rules. So, although we made it clear to the Government that in our view commissioners were not necessary, we acknowledge their presence here today and will work constructively with Mr. McArdle and his team. Councillors and officers work tirelessly for this Council and want what is best for the people of Nottingham, and if the commissioners can help us leave Nottingham in a better way then we welcome that support and advice. As Leader of the Council, I am committed to working with the commissioners. They have been with us for only a week, but the conversations so far have been positive and constructive. Would I rather see this journey with democratic control in our own hands? Yes. However, this was not our decision, and if this is the path we must follow then we must work together to bring about the necessary improvements. It won't be easy, but we owe it to our citizens to do everything we can to reach our goal and return the governance of Nottingham City Council to the democratic control of those elected by the City's citizens as soon as possible.

### **Homelessness**

Councillor Devontay Okure asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Housing:

As of 20 February there were 208 households in bed and breakfast accommodation in Nottingham due to homelessness, and over 2,000 live homelessness cases reported to the City Council. Does the Portfolio Holder for Housing agree that sufficient support has not been forthcoming from the Government and can they inform Council of what actions are being taken to support those who are homeless and to reduce the council house waiting list?

As Councillor Devontay Okure was not present to ask his question, it received a written response instead.

### **Adult Social Care**

Councillor Michael Savage asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health:

Can the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health confirm the number of Nottingham people who are currently receiving support from our adult social services and do we have a higher proportion of our elderly residents not being able to contribute to their own care compared to national averages? What actions are we taking to help support those most in need?

Councillor Linda Woodings replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor, and thank you Councillor Savage for your question. I want to start by talking about the term 'adult social care'. I think for people who don't have any experience of accessing the service, that's a very generic and unspecific term. We're actually talking about people who need the Council's help and support: it's not just older people. Adult Social Care helps people who live with a lifelong disability, or people who developed a serious condition or a serious injury throughout their lives, people with mental health needs, people with learning disabilities, and older people and people who are frail as well. We also care for people on a temporary basis, if they need support recovering from a serious illness or on discharge from hospital. So, I can tell you that it is a fairly fluid figure each month as to how many people we are supporting, but we have the figures for last year. Between January to December last year there were 7,299 citizens supported by our Council's Adult Social Care Service and that's just around a 6% increase on the previous 12 months. So, in the previous 12 months it was 6,915 and around 5,000 of those people are people who receive long term care from the Council.

As far as our funding is concerned, you've heard me say many times before we still have the frankly disgraceful situation of people having to pay for their own social care if they have the funds available and despite Prime Minister Boris Johnson's bragging that he had solved the funding for Adult Social Care, those plans, inadequate as they were, were shelved and the lack of national funding for Adult Social Care is still unresolved 13 years on from the Dilnot Commission recommendations. So, despite paying tax and National Insurance your whole life, you are still expected to support the cost of your care in case of illness or in later life from your own savings and when they are depleted people are forced to sell their homes that they may have saved up for all their lives to pay for their care. In Nottingham, approximately 2,700 people with support in their own homes pay a contribution of some level to their care, and we have just 199 who self-fund entirely themselves. 1,300 pay nothing due to having income and savings underneath the threshold which is £14,000. In our Adult Residential Care Homes we have just over 1,000 citizens – 1,071 citizens – of which 68 are self-funders. So, 1,003 of them are charged at some level for their care. Unfortunately there is no access to national data to benchmark if this is above or below the national average, but it is highly likely that Nottingham is below the national average for the number of citizens that are able to self-fund their care because the proportion of people with over £23,250 in savings or capital, and the number of homeowners plus lower property values means that less contributions will be received to the Council. We do know from surveys conducted by the Nottingham Financial Resilience Partnership and national data that Nottingham residents have the least disposable income in the country, at just £482 per month on average. So, we are 38% below the UK average for having disposable income. We also know Nottingham has one of the youngest populations in the country as well. 50% of people who live in Nottingham are under 30. So that is one of the indicators of greater deprivation and therefore an increased pressure on demand for Adult Social Care. We don't have data on people who self-fund their own care with no support in arranging that care from the Council.

How do we support people? Well, when we are doing peoples' reviews and assessments for their care, we make sure they are getting all the benefits that they are entitled to or we tell their power of attorney if they don't have capacity. We've also done what we could locally to protect welfare rights services, but what we need to do more is concentrate on transformation and put more resources towards prevention from the need for long-term care. Our transformation programme is attempting to do that: supporting people to live with as much independence as possible in their own home with support, ensuring that people receive the benefits that they are entitled to, reviewing and providing support and adaptations to help people stay in their own homes and helping carers support them in their own homes as well. Thank you very much.

## **Children in Care**

Councillor Leslie Ayoola asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education:

At the BAFTAs Nottingham-born Samantha Morton dedicated her BAFTA fellowship to children in care, like she was. She also highlighted the broken care system which "costs the taxpayer a huge amount of money to keep a child in care, to take care of them". The costs of child social care are spiralling far beyond the rate of inflation, in part due to a broken market. Can the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education give the number of children currently in care in the system and the length and cost of journeys to take children to schools? Can they confirm the actions the Council is taking to reduce costs while supporting those in need?

Councillor Cheryl Barnard replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor, and thank you Councillor Ayoola for your question. As of the end of February, the number of children in care was 679, a reduction of about 50 from our highest number last year. We're working on a number of initiatives to reduce costs while also ensuring that quality of care is sustained. These include recruiting more foster carers, providing additional support to our in-house foster carers and working through improved commissioning processes to ensure best value is achieved, as well as working with regional D2N2 colleagues to ensure high quality cost-effective commissioning of external placements. We currently have 401 statutory school-aged children in care. During summer and spring terms to date the Virtual School has contributed just under £34,500 to support the transport to school of 11 children. This is made up of payments to social care for 10 children and direct payment to a school of pupil premium plus for one child in care to attend alternative provision. It is important to note that the payments made to social care don't necessarily cover the full cost of transport in every case. The Virtual School is not in a position to monitor journey times, but clearly the intention is that children attend a school as close as possible to their foster home or residential placement, and the priority afforded under the School Admission Code does enable us to direct admissions where necessary. However, this is also a balanced decision as when a child comes into care it is important to try and maintain the continuity of their existing school place and support any transport for them to attend school when necessary. Samantha Morton is a great role model and advocate for children in care and care leavers. The points she makes about the care system are correct. The system is broken and children's care costs have been allowed to spiral with the Government failing to step in and regulate in any way. I'm grateful to Samantha for using her platform to speak up for children and young people.



## **Children's Services**

Councillor Georgia Power asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education:

Local authorities across England increased their spending on children's services by £800 million for 2021 – 2022 but 81% of the recent increase was funnelled into crisis intervention services, a rise from the 67% seen a decade ago. Of this additional spending £4 in every £5 went on late intervention services. Does the Portfolio Holder agree with me that the Government has failed children and pushed children's services to breaking point?

Councillor Cheryl Barnard replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor, and thank you Councillor Power for your question.

The key factor in the imbalance between crisis intervention and early help is the fact that one is a statutory duty and the other is not. There has unfortunately been a steady decline in early help. To give more context, a Labour Government launched Sure Start Centres in 1999, delivering services and support to young children and their families. Initially targeted at the poorest 20% of wards in England, it was scaled up to deliver 3,500 children's centres across the country. Sadly, cuts to funding of local government under the Conservative Government have seen a steady decline in the number of children's centres providing that essential community-based support, activities and early help to families. In Nottingham we handed some centres over to local primary schools and we were able to retain nine children's centres until the last two years when we reluctantly had to take a decision to close five as part of Council's budget savings. The remaining four currently operate as family hubs, with outreach into other areas of the city. At the same time, we've seen a reduction of engagement with children and young people as our youth services – again, not statutory – have been cut in order to meet budgetary pressures. All this means that some children, young people and families have a reduced chance of being picked up at an early stage and given the help needed, meaning that problems often escalate and don't come to us early enough. This lack of recognition of the value of and importance of early intervention at government level means that in the context of soaring costs of children's social care, early help for families and young people will always be the casualty. The Government has had warning after warning from local authorities and national children's charities and has done nothing but tinker at the edges. They are failing our children and young people and wholesale reform is needed along with investment into early intervention. So yes, Councillor Power, I completely agree with you and look forward to having a Labour Government in power in the near future that will understand that investment into early intervention can reduce the high cost of crisis intervention and give children and young people the right help at the right time.

## **Student Accommodation**

Councillor Kevin Clarke asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport and Planning:

Given the Council's financial pressures, does the Portfolio Holder agree with me that the developers and operators of student accommodation in the City should make an ongoing revenue contribution towards the Council's budget?

Councillor Angela Kandola replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor, and thank you Councillor Clarke for your question. I fully recognise the reason for asking this question, given the Council's financial pressures. Purpose-built student accommodation is classed as residential development, which would normally pay council tax. However, full-time students are exempt from council tax. This exemption is set nationally, and there is no scope for the Council to unilaterally change this. Whilst the Council does receive some revenue support grant from Central Government to recognise this, it has decreased in recent years and despite lobbying efforts by university cities to address the impacts on Council finances, Government has not addressed this. The Council has no ability to acquire an ongoing revenue contribution from operators of student accommodation. At the planning application stage, the Council does secure one-off financial contributions from new student developments for necessary improvements to open spaces, highways, public ground, as well as funding for employment and training opportunities. Since 2021, we have required new schemes to also pay affordable housing contributions. There is no ability for the Council to seek ongoing revenue from new student developments. Our recently adopted student living strategy has been designed to help jointly address the challenges associated with accommodating a large student population in Nottingham while fostering positive community relations and maximising the contributions of students and themselves to Nottingham. The Universities have committed to invest approximately £1million in 2023/24 into the prevention and enforcement of issues relating to waste, noise and other antisocial behaviour. This is a threefold increase in spend since 2019/20. We will continue to work collaboratively with the Universities and other stakeholders to reduce costs to the Council from managing student-related matters. It is also important to acknowledge the significant economic contributions of our Universities to Nottingham, which together forms about 14% of the local economy and supports 25,000 jobs across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Thank you.

### **Council Plan**

Councillor Kevin Clarke asked the following question of the Leader of the Council: The Leader will be aware that the Council Plan is now being revised. Given the depth of cuts proposed in this budget how does the Leader have any confidence that the plan can be delivered?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor and can I thank Councillor Clarke for his question. I'm sure if you've read far enough through the agenda today you can see that it's been revised and it is being brought here for agreement later today. It lays out our statutory duties and the Council priorities which incorporate the manifesto pledges on which this majority Labour Group won a resounding victory in last year's local elections. It is timed to coincide with the agreement of the Medium Term Financial Plan, which we are also due to consider later in the meeting. I will never tire of pointing out the fact that it was a manifesto that helped Labour secure 51 seats out of a possible 55 in last May's elections, increasing our majority from the last electoral term, and we saw an end to the Conservative Party in Nottingham, who failed to win a single seat and who are no longer represented on the Council. Maybe that's why you're feeling a bit sorry for Mr. Bradley and are going to give him your support rather than the Independent candidate in the Mayoral election, as we read in social media as the meeting starts? Maybe that's deliberate? Not only did we increase our majority in the Chamber, but we did so with 62% of the popular vote. The people of Nottingham spoke loudly and clearly, they support the important work carried out by this Labour authority, and they

gave us a clear mandate to continue. Our manifesto has informed this Plan and it is an ambitious plan, I make no apology for that. But, as you rightly point out Councillor Clarke, it is a plan that recognises the difficult position we are in financially. So, I applaud and thank the officers that worked together with Portfolio Holders to make sure that as many of our proposals as can be are in the Plan, maybe with slight adjustments; and it clearly sets out how they can be achieved. Of the 111 pledges, 98 are considered deliverable and affordable within our current resources and some have already been achieved. However, we cannot escape the cuts that are before us today, and so 12 of the pledges are on hold until we can find resources in the future to make them a reality. Lord-Mayor, I'll set this all out before the Chamber when I move to the report later in the meeting, but I must be clear now for the avoidance of doubt that I have every confidence that this remains, despite our financial restrictions, an ambitious plan and it will be delivered for the people of Nottingham by 2027. This is the least that they deserve and Labour members will work hard to see as many of these ambitions filled as possible.

### **Support for Voluntary Groups in Local Communities**

Councillor Kirsty M Jones asked the following question of the Leader of the Council: Will the Leader of the Council agree with me that the proposed budget reductions to councillors' ward budgets, together with proposed changes to the Resident Development Officer team will have a huge and detrimental impact on the support councillors provide to the tireless work of voluntary groups in their communities, and comment on how they plan to mitigate this?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor, and can I thank Councillors Jones for her question. The answer is emphatically 'yes'. I have no doubt that this budget cut, alongside most of the service reductions that we are being asked to vote for today will have a negative effect on our city. There's no point in pretending anything other than that. How could it not? Until now, as councillors we've held meagre ward budgets, but those few pounds and pence have all worked wonders for the people in our neighbourhoods. It might be that we've been able to support a community event for children or for the elderly, or maybe helped to fund a new piece of play equipment or a bench for our citizens, or maybe it simple ensured that there was a Christmas Tree for the people in our wards to gather around and share their good cheer. All of us sitting in this Chamber, you all know what I'm talking about. This rises above political lines and rivalries. Regardless of our political persuasion as councillors, our main duty is to serve our citizens. I'm sure we can all agree on that here today. We understand the small way we can make huge differences to the people of Nottingham. Although, of course, we will still be available to listen to our citizens who come to our surgeries, who ring us up, who contact us increasingly by social media. They are often anxious, sometimes angry, at times in tears because of the situations they find themselves in. Our ability to solve their problems, to fund or partly fund community events to bring communities together will be impaired by the loss of these budgets and the changes in the Resident Development Service which will hamper councillors in their ability to carry out their roles as champions of the areas they represent. I fear, Lord-Mayor, these cuts will do more than reduce services. They have potential to reduce the goodwill and support that knits communities together. Councillors are the visible face of this Authority to the people of our city. We live in the city. We use the services here. We are familiar within the community resources that our citizens benefit from.

We don't sit in office buildings all day, we are out among our people who voted for us. We hear what they say, we pick up litter alongside them, we are involved with local groups, we listen to constituents' problems and we understand their needs, and we are supported by our valuable Resident Development Officers who do so much good in our neighbourhoods and our communities. So yes, Councillor Jones, I completely agree that the proposed changes to the Resident Development Officers will have a huge and detrimental effect. I would like to thank Councillor Sajid Mohammed who is working behind the scenes to bring a measure of mitigation to this budget reduction to both Resident Development Officers and Community Protection Officers. We've been told that the restructure in the Service will retain elements of the current role, including working with community groups, councillors and the voluntary sector, but I have no doubt that it won't be the same.

## **Splendour**

Councillor Andrew Rule asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture:

Given the tendering process for Splendour has resulted in its cancellation, can the Portfolio Holder comment on how the process has demonstrated value for money for the residents of the City?

Councillor Pavlos Kotsonis replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and may I thank Councillor Rule for his question. It is indeed disappointing that the tender process did not lead to an event being secured for this year. Splendour is an event we were really proud to bring back after the pandemic and it has a number of local, regional and national fans. It goes back to the early 2000s and it has a deep resonance with many people in Nottingham. The Council is working to ensure contractual compliance across all the relationships and in certain cases that can be a complex and technical process, but the Council has a duty to work to ensure that all contracts comply with relevant contract and procurement legislation. So, speaking of Splendour, it would be inappropriate to give further details about the event in question just yet, taking into account that it is actually still a live procurement case. I can say that we are working at the moment to secure the event back for 2025. Councillor Rule, of course, will be happy to know that Wollaton Park has a number of other events taking place this summer. These will include Ibiza Orchestra Live on Friday 31 May, the Sausage and Cider Festival headlined by Scouting for Girls on Saturday 1 June, Live at the Hall headlined by Razorlight on Friday 30 August and Hacienda Live on Saturday 31 August. So quite a lot of activity there. Thank you, Councillor.

## **85 Motion in the name of Councillor David Mellen**

In accordance with section 12.47 of Article 12 Standing Orders and Committee Procedures of the Constitution, time limits were not applied to speakers on this motion.

Councillor David Mellen moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Audra Wynter:

Nottingham City Council joins with local councils across the country in calling on the Government to fund local government properly. Under the last Labour Government

councils worked in partnership with Central Government to introduce Sure Start Centres, fund youth services adequately and reduce class sizes in schools. Under the current Conservative Government councils have seen their grants from Central Government reduced in real terms. Nottingham has lost in the region of £100m from its Revenue Support Grant each year since 2013. Councils have had to meet increased demand for care for both adults and children, where the market for care that a number of Conservative Prime Ministers promised to fix, remains broken. The housing crisis has left urban councils in particular coping with increased demand from those presenting as homeless. Furthermore, the huge rise in inflation stimulated by the short government of Prime Minister Liz Truss has left councils with an inflated bill for goods, services, and staff wages. The Government has relied on increasing council tax, rather than funding local services properly.

Nottingham City Council calls on the Government to:

- address the funding crisis in care for both children and adults, regulating the private market to cap placement prices and to resource social care on a sustainable and fair basis;
- implement the Renters Reform Bill and review all housing legislation, as well as investing in house building, especially social housing across the country. Councils must receive full receipts for council houses sold under the 'Right to Buy' scheme and be fully funded for their duty to house the homeless; and
- uplift grants to councils to reflect the rate of inflation experienced over the last two years, as well as ensuring that councils have at least sufficient funding to meet their statutory duties.

We look forward to a new Labour Government when central and local government will work together to improve the lives of ordinary people.

Councillors debated the motion.

**Resolved to carry the motion.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.

The meeting resumed at 5:28pm.

## **86 2024/25 Budget and Council Tax Resolution**

In accordance with section 12.47 of Article 12 Standing Orders and Committee Procedures of the Constitution, time limits were not applied for speakers on this motion.

Councillor Audra Wynter, Portfolio Holder for Finance and HR, proposed the report of the Corporate Director for Finance and Resources and Section 151 Officer enabling Council to approve a 2024/25 General Fund revenue budget and set the council tax, which was seconded by Councillor David Mellen. In proposing the report, Councillor Wynter made an administrative alteration to recommendation 3 section h)iv to read "following completion of h(i), h(ii) and h(iii) above..." She also highlighted the following points:

- a) The Council is facing exceptional financial pressures, which are primarily a combination of demographic, complexity of provision and inflationary pressures across a range of services and also the consequence of an ineffective local government funding system.

- b) Officers have developed savings proposals using a 'duties and powers' framework but that is insufficient to meet the scale of the growth required to provide adequate financial provision to deliver the Council's service obligations.
- c) The Council has been granted up to £41m exceptional financial support from Government, which enabled a balanced budget to be put forward for consideration by councillors at this meeting.
- d) The draft budget was considered by Executive Board at its meeting on 13 February. Executive Board had concerns about the impact on the City and its communities, and did not vote to recommend it to Council. However, the Council has a legal duty to set a balanced budget and, in line with an Instruction from the Improvement and Assurance Board, it has been presented to Council for its consideration.

Councillor Adele Williams submitted an amendment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53pm to enable the Lord Mayor to obtain advice on the validity of the amendment.

The meeting resumed at 6:20pm.

The Lord Mayor stated that, having consulted the Section 151 Officer and in consultation with the other Statutory Officers, the proposed amendment was not permitted because the Leaders of all political groups had been advised that any proposed amendments had to be put forward for consideration by 28 February; but notwithstanding that the proposed amendment would not have received sign off from the Section 151 Officer as it would have cut across his professional view of robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves as expressed in his Section 25 Statement under the Local Government Act 2023 and it was also contrary to the requirement of the two most recent Instructions issued by the Improvement and Assurance Board.

Councillors debated the proposals including making the following points:

- e) The Council is in an extremely challenging financial position and one of the root causes of this is central government policy and decision making. The local government funding system is not fit for purpose, there is no national plan for sustainably funding adult social care and the use of exceptional financial support, which is not additional funding and has to be paid for by selling assets, is not a sustainable solution. The financial challenges have been made worse by inflationary pressures, which have, in large part, resulted from decisions made by central government.
- f) The savings proposals were developed by officers, and councillors feel that they had limited opportunity to shape proposals and put forward their own suggestions.
- g) Many of the savings will have a detrimental impact on local communities and citizens, including the most vulnerable, and are therefore not supported by councillors.

- h) Some savings proposals, such as reductions to preventative and early intervention services and welfare rights advice, could end up costing the Council more in the longer term.
- i) Many of the grants to community groups lever in additional financial and non-financial benefit to communities and the city, so cutting relatively small amounts of money to, for example, lunch clubs will have a disproportionate impact.
- j) A public consultation was carried out and a large number of responses were received. There had been very limited opportunities to make changes to proposals as a result of the feedback received and this may impact on peoples' willingness to engage with consultation in the future.
- k) Some councillors raised uncertainty about the deliverability of some savings, for example the closure of Barkla Close.
- l) The Council has a legal duty to set a balanced budget and councillors have been advised that if the Council fails to do so the consequences are likely to be worse, with the Council unable to spend money to protect vulnerable citizens and pay staff.
- m) Councillors would like to work with officers and the commissioners to try and mitigate the worst impacts of savings during implementation.
- n) Many councillors feel that they are constrained by national government cuts and impositions and are obliged to vote for the budget that has been put forward by the Section 151 Officer in line with the Instruction from the Improvement and Assurance Board.

Councillors voted on the recommendations as follows:

	For	Against	Abstain
Councillor Saj Ahmad	✓		
Councillor Liaqat Ali	✓		
Councillor Leslie Ayoola	✓		
Councillor Cheryl Barnard	✓		
Councillor Steve Battlemuch	✓		
Councillor Graham Chapman	✓		
Councillor Kevin Clarke			✓
Councillor Michael Edwards	✓		
Councillor Nadia Farhat			✓
Councillor Jay Hayes	✓		
Councillor Patience Ifediora	✓		
Councillor Imran Jalil	✓		
Councillor Corall Jenkins	✓		
Councillor Maria Joannou	✓		
Councillor Kirsty L Jones	✓		
Councillor Angela Kandola	✓		
Councillor Anwar Khan	✓		
Councillor Gul Khan	✓		

Councillor Neghat Khan	✓		
Councillor Pavlos Kotsonis	✓		
Councillor Sam Lux	✓		
Councillor Carole McCulloch	✓		
Councillor Sulcan Mahmood	✓		
Councillor AJ Matsiko	✓		
Councillor David Mellen	✓		
Councillor Sajid Mohammed	✓		
Councillor Fozia Mubashar	✓		
Councillor Nayab Patel	✓		
Councillor Georgia Power	✓		
Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos		✓	
Councillor Ethan Radford	✓		
Councillor Eunice Regan	✓		
Councillor Samina Riaz	✓		
Councillor Andrew Rule			✓
Councillor Naim Salim	✓		
Councillor Michael Savage	✓		
Councillor Matt Shannon	✓		
Councillor Hayley Spain	✓		
Councillor Adele Williams	✓		
Councillor Linda Woodings	✓		
Councillor Audra Wynter	✓		

**Resolved to:**

**1) Robustness of Budget Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves**

- a. **Note the report in Appendix 1 to the report by the Section 151 Officer on the level of reserves and robustness of estimates in setting the budget as required by Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003.**
- b. **Approve a one off contribution made into the General Fund balance of £9.560m as recommended by the Section 151 Officer, and in accordance with recommended guideline to transit the Council towards establishing a prudent balance commensurate to the revenue budget increase.**
- c. **Note the financial risks and pressures set out in the report under Section 17 and Appendix 1 and within the report to Executive Board on 13 February 2024.**
- d. **Note the policy on Financial Reserves adopted by Executive Board at its meeting on 13 February 2024 and the forecast General Fund balance and reserves for end of 31 March 2024 of:**
  - **General Fund balance £14.643m**
  - **Earmarked reserves £149.404m**

**2) New Finance Instructions from the Improvement and Assurance Board with regards to the 2024/25 Budget**



- a. Note the following additional statutory instructions from the Improvement and Assurance Board flowing directly from the existing instructions '2.1 Approval of wholly realistic plans and budgets' and '2.2 Establish and maintain a sound and prudent reserves policy and practice':
  - i. The Section 151 Officer, after consultation with the Chief Executive and fellow Corporate Directors, shall present his best professional view on a draft budget for 2024/25 in line with normally expected professional standards but which in particular maximises the level of savings options that Corporate Directors believe can be delivered and thus quantifies the minimum budget imbalance relying on the bid to Government for Exceptional Financial Support
  - ii. Subject only to any professionally required changes determined by the Section 151 Officer, the draft budget for 2024/25 as defined above, shall be presented and recommended to the Full budget setting Council meeting for its approval.

**3) General Fund Revenue Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2024/25 to 2027/28**

- a. Approve total General Fund savings of £36.348m over the MTFP period 2024/25 to 2027/28, submitted as part of the 2024/25 budget review process.
- b. Note the 'in principle' confirmation from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for awarding Exceptional Financial Support in the form of a capitalisation direction, up to £66.143m for 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- c. Approve the officer recommended budget with the 2024/25 budget gap of £41.024m to be funded from Exceptional Financial Support and with approval for officers to continue identifying savings throughout the year to reduce the in-year budget gap.
- d. Note that the Council has a budget gap of c£41m in 2024/25 and c£172m over the MTFP period.
- e. Approve the MTFP for 2024/25 to 2027/28 incorporating the revenue budget for 2024/25 with a net draft budget requirement of c£357m and the recommendations contained therein.
- f. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer) and the Director of Finance (Deputy Section 151 Officer) to finalise the 2024/25 revenue budget.
- g. Note the delegated authority approved by Executive Board on 13 February 2024 to the Section 151 Officer to approve and make

arrangements for processing of budget virements associated with allocation of expenditure and/or income included within the General Fund revenue budget for 2024/25.

- h. Authorise the Corporate Director and/or Director with responsibility for each proposal to:**
  - i. carry out all steps required in relation to each proposal, including carrying out any further targeted consultations;**
  - ii. consider any consultation outcomes and other detailed implications;**
  - iii. complete and assess the implications of any updated equalities impact assessment required;**
  - iv. following completion of h(i), h(ii) and h(iii) above:**
    - 1. determine whether to amend any proposal prior to implementation;**
    - 2. determine whether a further report needs to be considered by the Executive Board or the relevant officer or portfolio holder before a final decision is taken on implementation; and**
    - 3. where a decision is taken not to proceed with any proposal then alternative proposal(s) will be brought forward for consideration.**
- i. In relation to savings proposals that are significantly cross cutting across more than one service, authorise the Corporate Director or Director with primary responsibility for the savings proposal to complete any required equalities analysis assessments and to consider the outcome, and any other cross cutting implications, following consultation with the Corporate Directors or Directors of the other services significantly impacted by the proposals, prior to taking any decisions to implement such proposals.**
- j. Note that in relation to 3h and 3i above, where appropriate, any key decisions will be brought back to Executive Board.**
- k. Note the Fees and Charges Policy and Schedule, as approved by Executive Board on 13 February 2024.**
- l. Note the planned expenditure of c£9m on transformation initiatives over the period 2024/25 and 2025/26 and c£43m associated delivery of transformation savings over the same period to be funded via application of capital receipts under the Council's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Policy.**

#### **4) Capital Budget and Strategy**

- a. Approve the Capital Strategy and its appendices, as set out in Appendix 6 of the report, including:**
  - i. Voluntary Debt Reduction Policy;**
  - ii. Flexible Use of Capital Receipt Policy;**
  - iii. Non-Treasury Investment Strategy; and**

- iv. Updated prioritisation criteria for capital receipts**
- b. Approve the Capital Programme of £832.532m and associated funding as set out in section 13 and Appendix 7 of the report, alongside the capital programme additions of £53.788m.**
- c. Note the inclusion of Exceptional Financial Support of c£65m and associated funding within the capital budget.**
- d. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer) to finalise and amend (as necessary) the capital budget associated with the Exceptional Financial Support with overall budget to not exceed the value of Exceptional Financial Support award of £66.143m.**
- e. Note the register of pipeline schemes and movements from Full Council in March 2023 as set out in Appendix 6.4.**

## **5) Treasury Management Strategy**

- a. Approve the 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy as set out in Appendix 8, including:**
  - i. the approach to borrowing;**
  - ii. Voluntary Debt Reduction Policy**
  - iii. Treasury Investment Strategy; and**
  - iv. Prudential indicators**
- b. Approve the prudential indicators for the year 2024/25, in particular:**
  - i. the authorised limit for borrowing of £940.2m which sets a statutory limit for borrowing that the Council cannot exceed in 2024/25; and**
  - ii. the operational boundary for debt of £910.2m, a lower limit than the authorised boundary, which acts as an early warning mechanism for Council borrowing.**
- c. Note the Council has repaid £58m of long term loans early during the year 2023/24, which has been authorised under the Section 151 Officer's delegated treasury authority, and that details of this will be published in the Treasury Outturn 2023/24 report.**
- d. Note the change to the scope of the Voluntary Debt Reduction Policy which has been broadened to allow for borrowing in exceptional financial circumstances for a short term period.**
- e. Note that the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer) will implement the Treasury Management Strategy and associated policies under existing officer delegated powers.**

## **6) 2023/24 Annual Investment Strategy Revisions**

- a. adopt the following revisions to the Annual Investment Strategy for 2023/24, as recommended by Executive Board on 21 November 2023:
  - i. increase to counterparty limits; and
  - ii. other technical changes.

## **7) Council Tax Resolution**

- a. Agree to the calculations as set out in tables 7a and 7b, paragraph 12.6 of the report for 2024/25 that have been prepared in accordance with Sections 31A and 31B of the amended Local Government Finance Act 1992 to determine the Council Tax Requirement and Council Tax for Band D.
- b. Note that the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer) has calculated, under delegated authority, the amount of 69,075 as the Council Tax Base for 2024/25 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.
- c. Approve an increase of 2% for the Social Care Precept and an increase of 2.99% of Council Tax in 2024/25.
- d. Approve a Council Tax requirement of £148,879,420 including the calculations required by Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (“the Act”), as set out below:
  - i. £1,177,321,365 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.
  - ii. £1,028,441,945 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.
  - iii. £148,879,420 being the amount by which the aggregate at 7d(i) above exceeds the aggregate at 7d(ii) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.
- e. Approve the Council’s element of the Band D basic amount of council tax for 2024/25 of £2,155.33, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.
- f. Note a Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority precept at Band D for 2024/25 of £92.21.

- g. Note a Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner precept at Band D for 2024/25 of £282.15.
- h. Approve the setting of the amounts of council tax for 2024/25 at the levels below:

Band	City Council £	Police and Crime Commissioner £	Fire and Rescue Authority £	Aggregate Council Tax £
A	1,436.89	188.10	61.47	1,686.46
B	1,676.37	219.45	71.72	1,967.54
C	1,915.85	250.80	81.96	2,248.61
D	2,155.33	282.15	92.21	2,529.69
E	2,634.29	344.85	112.70	3,091.84
F	3,113.25	407.55	133.19	3,653.99
G	3,592.22	470.25	153.68	4,216.15
H	4,310.66	564.30	184.42	5,059.38

#### 8) Council Tax and Collection Fund

- a. Approve long term empty council tax premium charge to commence at 12 months 'empty' from 2024/25.
- b. Approve for the Council to levy a second home premium from 2025/26, as legislation requires it to be agreed one year in advance of implementation.
- c. Approve the continuation of the current Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/25 and note a review of the Scheme is to be undertaken during 2024/25, with a view to implementing a new or revised scheme in 2025/26.
- d. Note the forecast Collection Fund position for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 3.

#### 9) Budget Consultation

- a. Note the findings of the budget consultation and feedback from Corporate Scrutiny Committee in agreeing the 2024/25 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan.
- b. Note that the insight and learning gained through the extensive consultation process will be used to inform the Equality Impact Assessments, design phase and/or mitigate impact where possible in the implementation of proposals.
- c. Note that additional and targeted consultation will be required on some of the proposals based on more detailed proposed delivery models.

## **10)Members Scheme for Allowances**

- a. **Approve continuation of the current Members' Allowances Scheme for 2024/25 in the terms of the previously adopted and amended Scheme, except for any further adjustments required to mirror nationally determined rates for pay awards and travel and subsistence (as applicable to officers) and for carers allowances.**

### **87 Strategic Council Plan - Refresh 2024 - 2027**

Councillor David Mellen, Leader of the Council, proposed the report seeking approval for a refreshed Strategic Council Plan, setting out the Council's priorities until 2027. The Plan had been refreshed following local elections in May 2023 and within the constraints of the Council's financial position for 2024/25 and the Medium Term Financial Plan. Councillor Audra Wynter seconded the report.

**Resolved to approve the refreshed Strategic Council Plan 2024 - 2027, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.**

### **88 Application of Standing Order 12.18**

As the meeting was still in progress at 9:30pm, the Lord Mayor applied section 12.18 of Article 12 Standing Orders and Committee Procedures of the Constitution and required that all remaining items were proposed and seconded without comment and put to the vote without debate.

### **89 Response to the Section 24 Statutory Recommendation Report from Grant Thornton**

Councillor Audra Wynter, Portfolio Holder for Finance and HR, proposed the joint report of the Chief Executive and Corporate Director for Finance and Resources and Section 151 Officer asking Council to accept the Statutory Recommendation made by the Council's External Auditor, Grant Thornton, in accordance with their powers under Section 24, Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; and to agree a response to the Recommendation. The report was seconded by Councillor Sulcan Mahmood, Vice Chair of the Audit Committee.

**Resolved to:**

- (1) accept the Statutory Recommendation made by Grant Thornton in accordance with powers set out Section 24, Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; and**

**(2) agree the following response to the Statutory Recommendation:**

- a) **The Council accepts the recommendation. It also recognises the urgency to identify and develop further savings proposals in addition to those in its budget for 2024/25 to ensure its long-term financial stability.**
- b) **The Government has confirmed the Council can use exceptional financial support to balance its budget for 2024/25 up to £41m. This support has been provided in the form of a capitalisation direction**

which enables the Council to fund revenue costs from capital resources. The capital resources are required to be repaid from asset sales.

- c) In 2024/25 the Council is increasing council tax in line with the maximum permitted within the referendum guidance set out in the Local Government Finance Settlement of 4.99%. It will further consider its medium term council tax strategy over the forthcoming year.
- d) The Council’s budget for 2024/25 includes a range of officer identified and developed savings which will be implemented. The investment required to achieve savings has been included in budget plans. The Council will develop further proposals and bring these forward for approval during the forthcoming financial year to improve its financial position to minimise its reliance on exceptional financial support. These proposals will include demand management strategies, service reform, income generation and expenditure reductions.
- e) As set out in the Section 151 Officer’s Section 25 report on the Robustness of Budget Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves, the Council has set aside a prudent contingency and reserves in 2024/25 to manage the risks it faces.
- f) The Council will develop a comprehensive financial strategy budget methodology by end of June 2024 aimed at bridging the opening gap for 2025/26.

## 90 Decisions taken under Urgency Procedures

Councillor David Mellen, Leader of the Council, proposed the report informing Council that, since the last report to Council in January 2024 there had been one decision taken under the Call In and Urgency provisions of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and no Key Decisions taken under the Special Urgency provisions of the Access to Information Procedure Rules. Councillor Audra Wynter, seconded the report.

**Resolved to note that the following decision had been taken under the Call In and Urgency provisions of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules:**

<b>Decision Reference</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Decision Taker</b>	<b>Reason for Urgency</b>
<b>Minute Ref: 92</b>	<b>Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2024-2053, Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-2028, Budget 2024/25 including rent setting and public sector housing capital programme 2024-2029</b>	<b>Executive Board</b>	<b>To enable the required 28 days notice of a rent increase to be given to tenants.</b>

## 91 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Waste Local Plan

Councillor Angela Kandola, Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport and Planning, proposed the report informing Council that, following approval by Executive Board in July 2023, the Pre-Submission Plan had been published for the legally required consultation period allowing representations to be made; and asking Council to approve the joint Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Local Plan for submission to the Secretary of State. The report was seconded by Councillor Michael Edwards.

**Resolved to:**

- (1) submit the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Local Plan – Pre-Submission Version, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, to the Secretary of State with a request that the appointed Planning Inspector should advise on any modifications considered necessary in order to make the Plan sound;**
- (2) note the summary of the main issues raised during the consultation on the Draft Plan Stage, as outlined in the Report of Consultation including a summary of the representations received on the Pre-Submission Version, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, and how these have been addressed;**
- (3) authorise the Corporate Director for Growth and City Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport and Planning, to consider, propose and publish any modifications during the examination of the Plan in order to deal with issues of soundness, typographical corrections and to compile and submit further supporting documents as necessary prior to or following submission.**

## **92 Pay Policy Statement 2024/25**

Councillor Neghat Khan, Chair of the Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee, proposed the report setting out the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25, as required by the Localism Act 2011, including information on the pay and conditions for Chief Officers in comparison with the bulk of the workforce employed on 'Local Government Services' terms and conditions. The report was seconded by Councillor Linda Woodings.

**Resolved to approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2024/ 2025.**

## **93 Committee Membership Change**

The following changes to committee membership were noted:

- (1) Councillor Samuel Gardiner had been appointed to a vacant seat on the Licensing Committee;
- (2) Councillor Eunice Regan had been appointed to a vacant seat on the Audit Committee; and
- (3) Councillor Sam Lux had been appointed to a vacant seat on the Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

## **94 Future Meeting Dates**



**Resolved to:**

- (1) hold the Annual General Meeting on 13 May 2024 at 2pm; and**
- (2) note the proposal to meet at 2pm on the following Mondays:**
  - a) 8 July 2024**
  - b) 9 September 2024**
  - c) 11 November 2024**
  - d) 13 January 2025**
  - e) 24 February 2025**

The Meeting concluded at 9.35 pm

**Questions from Councillors requiring a written response****CQ3****Question asked by Councillor Devontay Okure of the Portfolio Holder for Housing at the meeting of the City Council held on 4 March 2024**

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As of 20 February there were 208 households in bed and breakfast accommodation in Nottingham due to homelessness, and over 2,000 live homelessness cases reported to the City Council. Does the Portfolio Holder for Housing agree that sufficient support has not been forthcoming from the Government and can they inform Council of what actions are being taken to support those who are homeless and to reduce the council house waiting list?

As Councillor Okure was not present at the meeting to ask his question, it received a written response instead.

Councillor Jay Hayes replied as follows:

Homelessness is an increasing challenge both locally and nationally, and councils up and down the country are calling on central government to increase the support available to help alleviate the problem. Here in Nottingham, we have seen a dramatic increase in the use and cost of B&B as emergency accommodation for homeless households, including those with children. I can say the number of households in B&B is closer to 135, the remaining households of the 208 being in self-contained nightly-paid accommodation. Our Housing Solutions Service has been working on a programme of transformation and improvement which is designed to prevent homelessness and reduce the reliance on B&B over the coming period.

The programme includes several initiatives including:

- a restructure of the Housing Solutions Service, increasing capacity to ensure we have sufficient officers to effectively manage our caseload and enable more complex decisions such as discharge of duty;
- the development of new, value for money and fit for purpose, temporary accommodation such as Sutton House and Laura Chambers Lodge;
- the block booking of B&B and nightly-paid accommodation to reduce costs;
- the revision of the Allocation Policy to remove the local, non-statutory priority currently given to families with children living in apartments; and
- an increase in the resources of the NPRAS team, which sources private rented property, which is used to discharge our homelessness duties; breaking the link between homelessness and social housing.

**WQ1****Written question asked by Councillor Andrew Rule of the Portfolio Holder for Housing at the meeting of the City Council held on 4 March 2024**

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Can the Portfolio Holder provide a breakdown of the grants the Council has received since 2019 toward tackling homelessness in City and detail how they have been utilised?

Councillor Jay Hayes replied as follows:

Since 2019, the Council has received £23,705,123 in grant funding to be used to tackle homelessness. This funding has been used to fund a variety of services ranging from off the street accommodation and shelter, outreach services, detox beds, vaccination coordinators and staffing with a range of roles and responsibilities.

A breakdown of the grants is provided below.

	New Burdens Funding	Flexible Homeless Support / Homelessness Prevention Grant	Rapid Rehousing Pathway Fund	Rough Sleeping Initiative & Cold weather	Private Rented Access Fund	Next Steps Accom Programme	Rough Sleeping Accom Programme	Accom for Ex Offenders	Out Of Hospital Shared Outcomes	Protect & Vaccinate	Respite Rooms
2019/20	£165,584.00	£592,258.00	£689,830.00	£552,049.00	£245,800.00						
2020/21		£969,035.00		£1,442,543.00		£458,200.00					
2021/22		£1,568,289.00		£2,135,270.00		£66,480.00	£1,443,898.00	£213,833.00	£41,458.00	£335,592.00	
2022/23		£1,545,876.00		£2,550,061.00		£73,817.00	£1,144,336.00	£119,975.00	£245,000.00		£349,407.00
2023/24		£1,800,803.00		£3,671,193.00		£73,823.00	£921,433.00	£289,280.00			
	£165,584.00	£6,476,261.00	£689,830.00	£10,351,116.00	£245,800.00	£672,320.00	£3,509,667.00	£623,088.00	£286,458.00	£335,592.00	£349,407.00

The tables below provide a breakdown of services that have been funded through each grant allocation

### 2019/20

Grant	Value	Measures
New Burdens funding	£165,584	New IT system to enable statutory Homelessness Reduction Act monitoring requirements Housing Aid Staffing Private Sector Leasing

Grant	Value	Measures
Flexible Homeless Support Grant	£592,258	Housing Aid Staffing Homelessness Prevention Payments Temporary Accommodation for Families and Singles
Rapid Rehousing Pathway fund	£689,830	Accommodation hub Community Navigators Specialist Navigators Supported Lettings Workers NPRAS Rough Sleeping Specialists Personalised budgets
Cold Weather Fund	£90,200	Supported Accommodation for Rough Sleepers Move on Coordinator Extended Outreach Service
Rough Sleeper Initiative fund	£461,849	Housing First Accommodation Project Move On Accommodation Project Supported Accommodation for Rough Sleepers Rough Sleepers Night Shelter Rough Sleeping Coordinator Resettlement Workers Detox beds Emergency Accommodation for Rough Sleepers Volunteer Training
Private Rented Sector Access fund	£245,800	Social Lettings
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,245,521</b>	

## 2020/21

Grant	Value	Measures
Flexible Homeless Support Grant / Homelessness Prevention Grant	£969,035	IT system to enable statutory monitoring Housing Aid Staffing Private Sector Leasing

Grant	Value	Measures
		Homelessness Prevention Payments Temporary Accommodation for Families and Singles
Rough Sleeping Initiative / Cold Weather Fund	£1,442,543	Accommodation hub Community Navigators Specialist Navigators Supported Lettings Workers NPRAS Rough Sleeping Specialists Personalised budgets Supported Accommodation for Rough Sleepers Move on Coordinator Extended Outreach Service Housing First Accommodation Project Move On Accommodation Project Rough Sleeping Coordinator Resettlement Workers Detox beds Emergency Accommodation for Rough Sleepers Volunteer Training
Next Steps Accommodation Programme	£458,200	Emergency Accommodation for Rough Sleepers Move On Accommodation for Rough Sleepers
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,869,778</b>	

**2021/22**

Grant	Value	Measures
Homelessness Prevention Grant	£1,568,289	IT system to enable statutory monitoring Housing Aid Staffing Homelessness Data Insight Officer Financial Resilience Coordinator

Grant	Value	Measures
		Homelessness Prevention Payments Temporary Accommodation for Families and Singles
Rough Sleeping Initiative / Cold Weather Fund	£2,135,270	Accommodation hub Community Navigators Specialist Navigators Supported Lettings Workers NPRAS Rough Sleeping Specialists Personalised budgets Supported Accommodation for Rough Sleepers Specialist Accommodation for Rough Sleepers Move on Coordinator Extended Outreach Service Housing First Accommodation Project Move On Accommodation Project Night Shelter Rough Sleeping Coordinator Housing Aid Rough Sleeping Specialist Resettlement Workers Detox beds Emergency Accommodation for Rough Sleepers Volunteer Training
Next Steps Accommodation Programme	£66,480	Move On Accommodation Support Workers
Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme	£1,443,989	Move On Accommodation
Accommodation for Ex Offenders	£213,833	Specialist NPRAS team for Ex Offenders PRS landlord incentives
Out Of Hospital Shared Outcomes	£41,458	Specialist Community Nursing for Rough Sleepers Hospital Discharge Navigator
Protect and Vaccinate	£335,592	Emergency Accommodation for Rough Sleepers Covid-19 vaccination coordinator for Rough Sleepers
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,804,911</b>	



2022/23

Grant	Value	Measures
Homelessness Prevention Grant	£1,545,876	IT system to enable statutory monitoring Housing Aid Staffing Vulnerable Renters Project Homelessness Prevention Payments Temporary Accommodation for Families and Singles
Rough Sleeping Initiative	£2,550,061	Accommodation hub Community Navigators Specialist Navigators Resettlement Support Service NPRAS Rough Sleeping Specialists Personalised budgets Supported Accommodation for Rough Sleepers Specialist Accommodation for Rough Sleepers Move on Coordinator Extended Outreach Service Housing First Accommodation Project Move On Accommodation Project Night Shelter Rough Sleeping Coordinator Housing Aid Rough Sleeping Specialist Resettlement Workers Emergency Accommodation for Rough Sleepers
Next Steps Accommodation Programme	£73,817	Move On Accommodation Support Workers
Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme	£1,144,336	Move On Accommodation
Accommodation for Ex Offenders	£119,975	Specialist NPRAS team for Ex Offenders PRS landlord incentives
Out Of Hospital Shared Outcomes	£245,000	Specialist Community Nursing for Rough Sleepers Hospital Discharge Navigator

Grant	Value	Measures
		Supported Accommodation for rough sleepers following hospital discharge
Respite Rooms	£349,407	Specialist Accommodation and Support for female rough sleepers at risk of DV
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6,028,472</b>	

2023/24

Grant	Value	Measures
Homelessness Prevention Grant	£1,800,803	IT system to enable statutory monitoring Housing Aid Staffing Homelessness Strategy Staffing Homelessness Prevention Payments Temporary Accommodation for Families and Singles
Rough Sleeping Initiative	£3,671,193	Accommodation hub Community Navigators Specialist Navigators Prevention and Resettlement Service Employment Placement and Support Service Targeted Engagement Worker NPRAS Rough Sleeping Specialists Personalised budgets Supported Accommodation for Rough Sleepers Accommodation with Support for Rough Sleepers Move On Accommodation for Rough Sleeper Move on Coordinator Extended Outreach Service Night Shelter Rough Sleeping Coordinator Housing Aid Rough Sleeping Specialist Emergency Accommodation for Rough Sleepers

<b>Grant</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Measures</b>
Next Steps Accommodation Programme	£73,823	Move On Accommodation Support Workers
Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme	£921,433	Move On Accommodation
Accommodation for Ex Offenders	£289,280	Specialist NPRAS team for Ex Offenders PRS landlord incentives
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6,756,532</b>	

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