

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council

held at the Council Chamber, the Council House

on 8 July 2024 from 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

Attendances:

✓ 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 Farzanna 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 M 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

✓ Indicates present at meeting

18 Apologies for absence

Councillor Nadia Farhat – unwell
Councillor Sam Harris - personal
Councillor Helen Kalsi – personal
Councillor Farzanna Mahmood - personal
Councillor Salma Mumtaz - personal
Councillor Georgia Power - personal
Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos – leave

Councillor Naim Salim – unwell
Councillor Adele Williams - personal
Councillor Audra Wynter - leave

19 Declarations of interests

None

20 Questions from citizens

Engaging with Government on challenges facing the Council

A citizen asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

In the event of a Labour victory in the General Election on 4 July, will the Council Leader write to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to demand an urgent meeting and more importantly, immediate emergency funding for Nottingham City Council with the aim of achieving two important objectives: firstly, safeguarding all of the jobs and services put in jeopardy by the approval of the 2024/25 budget on 4 March; and secondly, resolution of the financial shortfall should lead to the removal of the three unelected Commissioners, and put political decision making and control back in the hands of the elected representatives, where it belongs.

Councillor Neghat Khan replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord-Mayor. As we are all aware, there definitely was a Labour landslide victory in the General Election. We have a new Prime Minister and a new Labour Government, and we should all take a moment to appreciate what that means for our city and for our country. We have an end to fourteen years of Tory chaos, and we have hope for better times to come. One incredible result for our country.

I will indeed be writing to Sir Kier Starmer to congratulate him on becoming Prime Minister. Labour has policies that will make real, material differences to people here in Nottingham - a New Deal for Working People with rights from day one; 40,000 more operations, scans and appointments every week; free breakfast clubs in every primary school; reforms to our planning laws stopping developers ducking their obligations; green investment in every community via the new National Wealth Fund and Warm Homes plans; Young Future Hubs, with drop-in mental health support services for the under-25s; a fair deal for renters, stopping no-fault evictions; and delivering a National Care Service, a policy that will be transformative just like Labour's National Health Service in 1948. It is clear to me that Labour's manifesto, as they deliver it, will make real improvements and savings for our city. As we return to the question of money, Sir Kier Starmer, in his visit to North Nottinghamshire earlier this year, committed to long-term funding settlements to councils, allowing us to better plan and budget for our services, and this will be a big help in our forecasting. I am also far more hopeful now of success in Levelling Up and Housing Infrastructure Fund bids put in by the Council than I ever was under the previous Government. However, I will not be asking for emergency funding. The citizen who asked this question is wrong to imagine there is a magic money tree. The Tories spent fourteen years thrashing this country and our economy. So much is now broken and in need of urgent repair. The new Labour Government does not have a quick fix, and throwing more money at a problem is not always the answer. In

Nottingham we have identified key areas where we know our Council needs to improve and do better for our citizens. That is the responsible thing to do. In this economic climate we are forced to change. There are services that we currently provide that will have to be reduced. There are other services that must change to be more efficient, and there are some things that we will simply have to stop doing and look at new ways of working with our partners to deliver them. This means we must continue our budget plan as agreed in the Council Chamber in March. I lay the blame for this overwhelmingly at the door of Rishi Sunak, Liz Truss, Boris Johnson, Theresa May and David Cameron. Their policies, economics, and austerity have set this country back and gutted our public services. I will add that the Commissioners are helping us in our planning and resilience. They have been very supportive in their advice on how we improve the way our Council is run. I am grateful for their guidance, and I thank them for this. We ask for no special treatment from the Government now that it is a Labour one. I am determined to do everything in my power to put Nottingham back where it belongs – a thriving Core City which delivers for the people who live, work, study and visit here – all of this under a Labour Government that puts country before party. I am certain we have a bright future ahead. Thank you.

Greyhound Street Toilets

A citizen asked the following question of the Executive Member for Carbon Reduction, Leisure and Culture:

Could I ask the Executive Member to reconsider the plans to charge for use of the currently free toilet facilities on Greyhound Street in Nottingham City Centre? These proposed charges will affect a range of key workers including street cleaners, bus and taxi drivers; disabled people; those with medical conditions; homeless people; pensioners; and many others who rely on these facilities. If rumours are true that it is a card-only payment system this will again hit those citizens who don't have these payment options. It is also a public health issue and the minuscule savings provide a false economy, compared to the public health risks and hazards inherent in these plans.

Councillor Sam Lux replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and I'd like to thank the citizen for the question. The proposal to charge a fee for the use of the Greyhound Street toilets was approved in the budget which was agreed by Full Council in March. The budget process last year sought to reduce services provided by the Council back to the levels against which the Council is required to deliver as a statutory duty. Unfortunately, the Council has no statutory duty to provide free public toilets, and charging for them was the only way which we could continue to keep them open. The maintenance and upkeep of the toilets is expensive, in part due to a high level of anti-social behaviour. There remain other free toilets in the city centre, such as at Broadmarsh Car Park and Victoria Shopping Centre. The payment mechanism will be card-based, as a cash-based system would be more costly to implement meaning the proposals would either be unviable or the increase would need to be passed on to the user. The proposal was supported by an Equality Impact Assessment through which the Council has committed to monitor the impact of the proposal. Thank you.

Library Service

A citizen asked the following question of the Executive Member for Carbon Reduction, Leisure and Culture:
Can consultation meetings be arranged in the four libraries earmarked for closure?

Councillor Sam Lux replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and again I'd like to thank the citizen for this question. To help us develop final proposals on better ways to reshape the Library Service and address the delivery of savings being sought, a comprehensive consultation exercise is currently underway and will run until the 19 August of this year. Since its commencement on 28 May, we have to date already received over 2,700 responses regarding the savings proposals being made and have had 3 in-person meetings in the Council House, Harvey Hadden and Bulwell Riverside Library. We've also held 1 online consultation session to discuss the issue and impacts of savings being proposed. There's no plan to hold any further public consultation sessions. At present Aspley Library is closed due to health and safety works being needed and Lenton and Radford Library, while operational, is reduced in capacity. Therefore neither we felt were suitable to hold public meetings, and since the necessary savings being discussed affect all libraries, we have tried to choose geographical locations appropriately to enable all library users to attend and contribute. We would really encourage every citizen to get involved with the consultation currently taking place to ensure that when final decisions are made we are able to reflect all the views and ideas being expressed and look at alternative solutions to achieving savings where practical options do emerge. The link to the survey will be shared in writing and the same webpage also hosts information about the proposal, frequently asked questions, and supporting documents. Paper copies of the survey are also available at all Nottingham City Libraries, where staff are willing to support if required. We encourage you to complete the survey in whichever way is convenient. Thank you.

21 Petitions from Councillors on behalf of citizens

Councillor Nick Raine submitted a petition on behalf of residents concerned about plans to charge for the use of public toilets on Greyhound Street, asking the Council to review the decision.

22 To confirm the minutes of the last meeting of Council held on 20 May 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2024 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

23 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 would like to thank all those colleagues across the Council who worked to deliver the General Election across the three constituencies in Nottingham on 4 July. There were over 500 people working on the election directly either staffing polling stations or assisting in the counting of votes. I would like to pay particular thanks to Sarah Wilson our Electoral Services Manager and her team for the high level of professionalism in which they have handled two major elections within weeks of each

other, with the smooth and efficient operation being a credit to both them, the Council and the city.

We remember Bob White who sadly passed away recently. Bob played an important role in promoting Robin Hood and Nottingham at home and abroad. Through his establishment of the Worldwide Robin Hood Society, Bob made sure that Robin Hood always remained synonymous with the City. The Society's website is recognised internationally as one of the leading archives of information about Robin Hood and how his legend symbolises the fight against oppression and tyranny. Bob was instrumental in Nottingham hosting the UK premier of the hugely successful movie 'Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves' starring Kevin Costner when it was launched in 1991. Bob also led the Council's communications team in the 1980s and 90s. We appreciate all his work and efforts to ensure the legacy of Robin Hood remains such a powerful one for Nottingham.

Neghat Khan, Leader of the Council, noted that Mel Barrett, Chief Executive would be leaving the Council in August to take up the role of Chief Executive at Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing. She thanked him for his service to the Council over the past four years.

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

None

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

Chief Executive Pay

Councillor Andrew Rule asked the following question of the Chair of the Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee:

Does the Chair of the Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee agree with me that pay increases for the new Chief Executive should be wholly contingent upon the meeting of performance metrics and depart from the existing system where increases in pay do not seem to be linked to performance?

In the absence of Councillor Helen Kalsi, Councillor Steve Battlemuch replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor, and I thank Councillor Rule for his question. As he will know, we are currently going through the process of recruitment for a new Chief Executive at the moment and in doing so we advertise salary and terms and conditions in line with the rules of the Local Government Association and the position that is adopted nationally – we don't change the rules in Nottingham to adapt to that situation. So I'm quite happy to read a statement out that explains how we're doing that, and that's as follows: "The Chief Executive, Corporate Directors and Strategic Directors are currently paid on an all-inclusive, fixed spot salary drawn from a predetermined band. The pay and conditions of employment for Local Government Chief Executives is determined by the joint negotiating committee for Chief Executives. This means that the annual pay awards for Chief Executives in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland are currently a contractual entitlement and subject to a national pay review process

and negotiated centrally between national employers and the trade unions. The Council is committed, as part of its single status journey, to undertake a review to ensure that the grading structure for the Chief Executive and other senior roles is fit for purpose, with a recommendation to move away from fixed spot salaries to a performance assessment-led incremental-based structure. Recommendations regarding the broadening and enhancing of the Local Government Scheme employees, heads of service, and director pay grades were finalised over the summer of 2023 and were implemented through September and October 2023, which now include performance-related incremental progression. All employees of the Council are currently subject to annual individual performance reviews and further work will need to be undertaken to assess the cost implications and the options for the introduction of performance-related incremental progression for the Chief Executive, Corporate, and Strategic Directors.”

Cleaning of the Council House Façade

Councillor Kevin Clarke asked the following question of the Executive Member for Skills, Growth and Economic Development:

Could the Executive Member confirm whether sourcing external funding to clean up the façade of the Council House remains a priority over this Council term?

Councillor Ethan Radford replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor, and thank you Councillor Clarke for your question. Given the extent of the financial challenges this Council currently faces, while grappling with huge demand pressures on our services, I must admit looking for funding to spruce up the façade of this building is not high up on our list of priorities. Given our funding pressures we are only approving essential maintenance works currently. Council officers in all our services are already working with reduced capacity, and I would rather they were spending what time they do have looking for external sources of funding that could be put to better use for our residents than cleaning the pigeon guano off the Council House façade. We may have to be content with allowing the pigeons to roost in the façade of this building just a little while longer while we attend to more pressing matters, Councillor Clarke.

Clifton Town Board

Councillor Kirsty M Jones asked the following question of the Executive Member for Skills, Growth and Economic Development:

Will the Executive Member join me in congratulating the work of the Clifton Town Board who are in the process of completing an extensive engagement exercise ensuring that the views of Clifton residents are front and centre of the Board's priorities?

Councillor Ethan Radford replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor, and thank you Councillor Jones for your question. I'd be very happy to join you in congratulating the work of the Clifton Town Board. Having had the pleasure of attending Board meetings since I took up the post of Executive Member for Skills, Growth and Economic Development, I've seen for myself the passion, commitment, love and pride that residents have for their community in Clifton. To be party to the discussion of local residents and stakeholders like Nottingham Trent University, the police, local councillors and others, I can see a way

forward that empowers local people to take ownership of this huge opportunity to make long-lasting change for the better. I should like to think too that the Clifton Town Board has been, and could be, a good example of cross-party working, with Councillors Watson and Spain and myself on the Board because I know we all want the same thing, don't we? The liveable outcomes that will make a tangible difference to Clifton and leave an indelible mark of good on the local community. In the past I have attended too many meetings where the loud views of a small handful have dwarfed the quiet consensus of the many, where the lone loudest voices won out against a more moderately quiet majority. It should never be the case that one councillor, one resident, one community group or one Council officer should unduly smother the views of local people.

We must be realistic in our expectations though. £20 million sounds like a lot, but it will not address every need in Clifton, or fix every problem. Indeed, the restrictions placed on the terms of use for the funding from the last Tory Government are extremely restrictive and require an Olympic feat of acrobatic creativity to try and stay within those restrictions, while at the same time using the money in such a way as is of actual benefit to Clifton. Such is the shoddiness of the way the last Government went about allocating funding, depriving communities like Clifton of services via cuts from Central Government grants to the Council, only to hand them the cumulative difference years later. Nevertheless, the Clifton Town's deal is a deal this Council is committed to make work. The £20 million is a huge opportunity we won't let slip through our fingers and we will make sure this deal works for local residents in Clifton. The best way we can do that is by empowering them to be the ones who shape it. By using capacity funding, the Clifton Town Board has already surveyed hundreds of Clifton residents to seek input into the development of a ten-year vision and three-year investment plan into the area. This included holding a community day on 22 June which was attended by hundreds of local people. By using this deal as a catalyst, we will bring together all the levers of influence and power and put them in the hands of local people so that together we can make Clifton a more safe, connected and vibrant place to live.

Use of Council Resources

Councillor Andrew Rule asked the following question of the Executive Member for Finance and Resources:

At a time when the financial pressures on adult and children's services, which the Council has a statutory duty to provide, are well documented, does the Executive Member really think spending £600,000 on ANPR cameras is a prudent use of Council resources?

Councillor Linda Woodings replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor, and thank you Councillor Rule for your question. As you're no doubt fully aware as a very longstanding member of the Audit Committee, local authority finance is bound by innumerable rules and legislation as to how it can be spent. I'll give you a bit of a lesson if you haven't already figured that out. We have a General Fund – monies that can be spent on general council services – and that is made up of Council Tax, part of our Business Tax refund generated in the city and our Revenue Support Central Grant from Government which is now, if I need to remind you, £100 million less per year than it was in 2013. We then have the additional Social Care Levy we can add on to Council Tax and there are also specific

grants received that supplement the costs of Adult Social Care and Childrens' Services – that additional income can't be spent on anything else, although it is still insufficient for our needs as a city. In addition to this we have many other ring-fenced funding areas, in areas such as Public Health – can only be spent on Public Health funding; Education – can only be spent on Education funding; Licensing revenue can only be spent on Licensing enforcement; and specific grants we have successfully applied for such as Transforming Cities, Streets For People – they can only be spent in the areas specified. That is the case with this £600,000. The Council collects funds from traffic enforcement, and any surplus in those funds – which we can't budget for, by the way, because we don't know how much money there's going to be surplus at the end of each year – can only be spent on traffic safety and improvement schemes within the city boundary, and in line with our additional statutory obligations in respect of road safety and the effective management of our highway network. As you'll know, in October 2023 we accepted a Designation Order from the Department for Transport that granted us additional enforcement powers in the area of Moving Traffic Enforcement, to enable us to tackle inappropriate and unsafe driver behaviour at key locations across the city, thereby improving pedestrian safety, reducing congestion, reducing traffic accidents, and improving air quality. The four original sites were highlighted at the point of application for these powers, and I should also add that our Traffic and Highways Team meet regularly with the Police to ensure that this money is spent where it is most needed, and fully evidenced as necessary for the safety of road users and pedestrians. The four original sites were supported by the Police and are as follows:

the Victoria Embankment to have a Prohibition of Driving Order made (at the moment, there are barriers along there, but people are going around those barriers and driving along the Embankment. It's not for moving traffic. So, we will be able to allow emergency vehicles to go along there in the case of emergency, but we won't have to have a physical barrier because any driver who drives along there will be fined); the Shakespeare Street section from Goldsmith Street (a very heavily student-populated area with lots of pedestrian activity, significant risk of harm and injury to pedestrians, and there are also parents visiting for Open Days and Graduations, so we will be mindful that the signage is clear, and we have asked the University every year to make that clear in their communications to applicants); the Sheriffs Road/Queens Road Junction with Arkwright Street to regulate the No Left Turns, No Right Turns into Arkwright Street, because that is direct conflict with the green man pedestrian crossing phase, so that is a significant risk to road users, and it causes unnecessary congestion on Queens Road; and finally, the Maid Marian Way/Friar Lane junction (traffic u-turns there, in direct conflict with the signage, and again in conflict with the pedestrian crossing phasing of the 'green man', so you could effectively be u-turning into people crossing the road on the 'green man'. That is a significant risk to pedestrians and vulnerable road users, and therefore that was part of our original application for these powers.) Legislation restricts the use of these ring-fenced budgets generated from this type of traffic enforcement activity, meaning that expenditure on ANPR cameras does not impact the Council's General Fund, and it cannot therefore be used to directly support Adults' and Children's Services, although it certainly will prevent a lot of adults and children from getting injured in the first place. Thank you.

Rental Charges for Community Centres

Councillor Maria Watson asked the following question of the Executive Member for Communities, Waste and Equalities:

Can the Executive Member confirm that she, as her predecessor was, is committed to introducing a social value matrix as a means of mitigating rental charges for community centres and support the fantastic volunteers that run them?

Councillor Corall Jenkins replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor, and thank you for the question Councillor Watson. The current financial situation of the Council is widely known and we are having to review our position with regards to the Community Assets Policy. However, it is important to say that we, as a Council, remain committed to working with the voluntary and community sector to support social value. We cannot forget that given our commitment, that our efforts must be in the context of a Council with priorities, and the current financial situation but I think it's important just to repeat, that it is important point that we are committed to it. Thank you.

Victoria Centre Market

Councillor Kevin Clarke asked the following question of the Executive Member for Carbon Reduction, Leisure and Culture:

Following reconfirmation last month of the decision to withdraw all subsidies from the Victoria Centre Market, can the Executive Member confirm whether any savings generated from this make any provision for the prospect of legal action from market traders seeking to challenge their forthcoming evictions?

Councillor Sam Lux replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor, and thank you Councillor Clarke for the question. I'd like to reassure Councillor Clarke that any action taken by the Council will be in compliance with the terms of the traders' agreements and relevant law, and the Council is confident that this will minimise the risk of any successful legal challenge. Of course, each trader's circumstances are different, and it would be inappropriate to discuss individual details in a public forum. Thank you.

Impact of the General Election Results for Nottingham

Councillor Michael Edwards asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

Can the Leader of the Council give their interpretation of the impact of the General Election results for Nottingham?

Councillor Neghat Khan replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor, and thank you Councillor Edwards. The Labour Party have a massive election victory. It ends fourteen years of Conservative mismanagement and five failed Prime Ministers who put Party before country and presided over a culture of incompetence, lies and greed. It was one rule for them and another for the rest of us. They have made us poorer and more divided as a society. At the ballot box, the message from the people of Britain was clear. Following on from Nottingham City's example at last year's local elections, vote the Tories out. This was a landmark day for our country and for our city. I'm proud that our three Nottingham MPs have all been returned and I offer my congratulations to Alex Norris, Lilian Greenwood, and Nadia Whittome who will now continue their tireless good work for people in our city. I would also like to congratulate my colleagues Councillor Saj Ahmad and Councillor

Zafran Khan on their campaigns in Newark, and Melton and Syston. Whilst they were unsuccessful in their bid to become MPs, they ran the Conservatives close in both seats and bit into their majorities. I am also a little selfishly pleased that I will still have them both here in Nottingham as valued councillors for Wollaton West. However, as I've said earlier, momentous as the Labour victory is, it brings no magic wand and no quick fix for the problems created by the Tories. It will take years to repair the harm done to our neighbourhoods, our towns, our cities and our country. We have a lot of hard work ahead of us. In Nottingham, we have our own improvement journey to be more financially stable and to change the way we deliver our services. I'm confident that we are on the right track to complete this journey, and Labour's policies on care, our NHS, homelessness, planning, and investment priorities will help Nottingham. We have what it takes to make our Council fit for purpose for the people of Nottingham, while the Labour Party nationally helps to fix broken Britain. There is a bright future ahead and I'm proud that we all will play a part in that.

Nottingham Forest

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

Would the Leader of the Council be able to give an update on the situation with Nottingham Forest since the last Council meeting?

Councillor Neghat Khan replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor, and thank you Councillor Battlemuch for your question. The last time I stood in this Chamber I promised decisive action to secure the future of the world famous City Ground, which has been home to Nottingham Forest for over 125 years. Lord Mayor, I'm pleased to announce to you all today that talks with Nottingham Forest have resulted in in-principle terms being agreed for the Club to buy the land on which the City Ground sits. Football is staying home, here in Nottingham, and the mists will keep rolling in off the Trent for years to come. The terms of the deal will be presented to the Council's Executive Board for decision on 16 July. If agreed, subject to legal contracts and due diligence, this will be a historic day for the Club, for the fans and for our city. This is the result that everyone hoped for, and I thank Councillor Mellen and Councillor Battlemuch for their work on this. It will allow the Club to move forwards with its ambitious plans to expand the stadium whilst also securing a significant capital receipt for the Council. The Council and the Club have agreed that measures will be put into the sale contract that will protect the Council's position in a highly unlikely event that the Club should choose to relocate from the City Ground in the future. We understand that this has been an uncertain time for supporters, but property transactions like this can often be long and complex. We are legally bound to seek best value for our taxpayers, and we feel that the deal now on the table satisfies those requirements and also works for Nottingham Forest, entrusting the future of this important asset to the Club. The Council is incredibly proud of our supporting heritage here in Nottingham, and the great work the Clubs do in engaging with our communities. They are woven in the fabrics of our city, and we wish them every success on and off the pitch. As for Nottingham Forest, we hope this deal helps them realise their ambitions and, following on from Thursday's election results, many more victories for the team in red.

Challenges facing the Council

Councillor Hayley Spain asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

Since being elected Leader in this Chamber at the last Council meeting, could the Leader give us an idea of the challenges this Council, and our City, will face in the coming year, and the work that will have to be done to rise to these challenges?

Councillor Neghat Khan replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor and can I thank Councillor Spain for her question. There is no doubt that our city faces many challenges and, as I've said in this Chamber today, there is no quick fix to the damage done over fourteen years of Tory austerity. There is no magic money tree or a Labour Government bailout that is coming to our rescue. We have to do this for ourselves. The challenges ahead are ours to meet, and as the new Leader of the Council I am determined to do everything I can to put our Council back on track. Let me be clear: the next two or three years will make or break this Council and many more across the country. We still face a large budget gap and an ever-increasing demand for our services. A Labour win on Thursday has not miraculously changed this. We still do not have the money to deliver all of the services people need or to support them how we would like. Demand is overwhelming us. The landscape in which we operate is changing, and we have sometimes been slow to adapt to deliver services in different way or working with partners. My priority so far has been to work with senior council officers and with commissioners to draw up a clear plan of action. Our Council needs a vision. We must be financially stable, and our systems and processes need to be fit for purpose. I am a problem solver and I'm confident that with the support of elected members and our brilliant council staff we can deliver for the people of Nottingham. We need a whole Nottingham solution. I am committed to working with partners and looking at the work other local authorities do to see how we can deliver better and smarter services. I want to work with partners in the public sector like our new East Midlands Mayor, with businesses, charities and the voluntary sector, and with our citizens to ensure our city is the best it can be for the people who live, work, study and visit here. I believe we all want the same. I say here today to politicians of all parties: my door is always open to discuss ideas, proposals and shared solutions that will benefit our city and our people. I am passionate about making sure everyone in Nottingham has the best opportunities to succeed and that we invest in the city for future generations. The people of Nottingham deserve nothing less.

Nottingham Economic Growth Plan

Councillor Matt Shannon asked the following question of the Executive Member for Skills, Growth and Economic Development:

Last month at Executive Board, the Council announced the Nottingham Economic Growth Plan. Could the Executive Member please explain the impact this Plan will have on Nottingham and for residents?

Councillor Ethan Radford replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor, and thank you Councillor Shannon for your question. The Nottingham Economic Growth Plan is a catalyst to ignite positive change, sparking constructive dialogue, stimulating collaboration, and uniting key stakeholders from across the private, public, voluntary community and educational sectors. Crafting this Plan has been a truly collaborative endeavour, with invaluable input from a diverse range of stakeholders, developed through a comprehensive four-stage process which I won't go through now, this Plan is rooted in evidence-based interventions, designed to deliver real results not lofty statements. The new Economic Plan is designed to drive our city forwards towards a shared agenda for

sustainable growth, and I'd like to thank my predecessor Councillor Battlemuch for kickstarting it in its early stages.

Built on extensive economic research and enriched by widespread consultation, this Plan reflects the collective vision and insights of partners across Nottingham, guided by the Nottingham Growth Board. We are setting our sights on a shared vision for 2030 and I am excited to embark on this journey together with our partners. The creation of the East Midlands Combined County Authority offers new opportunities to accelerate growth in Nottingham, benefitting the entire East Midlands. Through this powerful collaboration Nottingham can join forces with neighbouring local authorities to drive regional transport and infrastructure projects which unlock unprecedented growth. It is through the Combined Authority that we will elevate Nottingham's status to a regional hub of excellence in life sciences, digital and creative industries, and advanced manufacturing, paving the way for exciting new business opportunities across the region and beyond. The Plan puts Nottingham's ambitious goals front and centre within this regional context, and will serve as a reminder both inside and outside this Council that Nottingham is a Core City, not a borough or a district – a Core City with a focused, strategic plan to harness our city's potential and propel us towards a prosperous future as the capital of the East Midlands. This is not a plan for growth at any cost via deregulation, accepting the first offer, or chasing after the biggest bid. It's about smart, responsible, and sustainable progress committed to green growth, creating a safe and child-friendly city and tackling deprivation and growth inequalities head-on. Rooted in Nottingham's rich tradition of innovation and forward-thinking, this Plan sets us on course towards a bright and sustainable future. An impressive sustainable transport connectivity, just a few weeks ago the British Consulate in Canada reached out to us to enquire about the success of our trams, and we have an exciting regeneration agenda, and a strong cultural heritage and sporting offer, which we don't currently make enough of, considering our extensive sporting assets. Our city has the potential for greatness, but in today's challenging economic climate and an economy left in ruins by the last Government, we need bold and impactful strategies to drive us forward with the realisation that we cannot deliver in isolation. We must be outward-looking and collaborative in our approach, and we should count ourselves lucky too that this Plan has coincided with the election of a Labour Government.

Our initial targets include generating an additional £500 million in gross value added, creating 12,00 new jobs, and developing the infrastructure and services to support population growth in the future across both the city and the Greater Nottingham area to secure the next £4 billion worth of regenerative investment in our city. To deliver these ambitions, this Plan sets out 26 targeted actions to spur on positive change, both in the immediate and longer term. Key to the Plan's success is a strong partnership with stakeholders across Nottingham and beyond, and our approach underscores our commitment to unified growth and development, ensuring a prosperous future for all that isn't just reliant on the Council. Nottingham is the economic and cultural heart of the East Midlands, and our success is pivotal to the region's prosperity. As Board Members of the new Authority, Councillor Khan and myself are perfectly positioned to embrace the new East Midlands Combined County Authority, to grasp the new opportunities it presents, to drive forward impactful, large-scale interventions towards inclusive, clean and sustainable growth, and to have the political will to embrace change and to deliver for our city. The Plan is ambitious and forward-looking, with clear objectives to foster inclusive growth and build a united

community that works together towards shared successes. We are confident that by working together and leveraging our strengths, Nottingham will thrive and prosper, securing a positive and viable future for all our residents. Nottingham City Council will be dedicated in the process moving forward, and the Nottingham Growth Board will take the helm, keeping our partnership on track and ensuring our efforts are informed by insights and expertise from across the business community and key stakeholders. Together, we will bring our bold vision to life, realise our ambitious targets, and make Nottingham a model of innovation, collaboration, and shared economic success. Thank you.

Inclusion for LGBT People

Councillor Audrey Dinnall asked the following question of the Executive Member for Communities, Waste and Equalities:

Last month was international LGBT Pride month, with Nottingham Pride taking place on 27 July. Will the Executive Member confirm the work that the Council is doing to boost inclusion for LGBT people across the City?

Councillor Corall Jenkins replied as follows:

Thank you Lord-Mayor, and thank you Councillor Dinnall for the question. The work we are doing as a Council to boost inclusion for LGBT people across the city is led by the Council's LGBT+ Employee Network who in partnership with the Integrated Care Partnership will be marching together with our joint banner, raising awareness around the LGBTQ+ equalities issues across the city. Our joint partners include the NHS across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, the City and County Council. The Council's LGBT+ Network will also have various internal communications going out in the build up to Pride. We will be utilising social media platforms to raise awareness of the Event. Housing Services will also have a stall, and I can confirm that the Rainbow Road will be refreshed. There will also be a photoshoot taking place. As with other citywide major community events, Nottingham Events are supporting Nottinghamshire Pride with events and production management support. This support will comprise of the use of the Council's own events infrastructure and Events Staff resources both onside and during planning the event, which will have a value of around £10,000. The new route for the march incorporating a new stage and market is around Sneinton Market Avenue and Sneinton Market Square. This would not have been possible without the support of teams across the Council, notably Highways Network Management Team. Thank you.

Victoria Embankment Paddling Pool

Councillor Eunice Regan asked the following question of the Executive Member for Carbon Reduction, Leisure and Culture:

Will the Executive Member join me in welcoming the news that work has begun on the Victoria Embankment Paddling Pool, and confirm when this work will be completed?

Councillor Sam Lux replied as follows:

Thank you. It is indeed great to see the work has recently started on the improvement and redesign of the paddling pool at Victoria Embankment. This project is being delivered thanks to funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and also from the Council's own Section 106 contributions. For those who aren't familiar with the term, Section

106 contributions essentially means finance secured from private developers who build in our city, which is agreed ahead of the granting of the planning permission. The Paddling Pool project is one of several exciting park improvements that are soon to reach completion including the heritage restoration of the Victoria Embankment Memorial Gardens, a new skate park at Broxtowe Country Park, and proposals to upgrade the Forest Recreation Ground's Sports Zone. As always, our small but dedicated team in the Green Space and Natural Environments Service continue to maximise the use of Section 106 funds to secure additional external grant contributions, which enable them to deliver a wonderful Green Space Improvements Programme at practically no cost to the Council. These improvements are all designed to reduce the maintenance burden of existing facilities and will be delivered in line with the Council's new soon-to-be-adopted green space strategy, 'Greener, Healthier, Happier'. This is a really progressive and ambitious piece of work, one which I cannot take any credit for at all but nevertheless I am extremely proud of. With regards to the specific Embankment development in question, the facility will include an open paddling pool area and a new splash pad and, something I'm personally really excited about at the works, we'll also include a new water recycling and filtration plant that will help to ensure that the facility reduces annual running costs and operates more sustainably from an environmental perspective. The construction will be going on through this summer and is currently scheduled for completion later in the autumn, which will give the Green Space Team time to prepare ready for an opening in May 2025. Thank you.

26 Decisions taken under Urgency Procedures

Councillor Neghat Khan, Leader of the Council, proposed the report informing Council that, since the last report to Council in May 2024, there had been three decisions taken under the urgency provisions within the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and no decisions taken under the special urgency provisions within the Access to Information Procedure Rules. Councillor Ethan Radford seconded the report.

Resolved to note that:

- (1) the following decisions had been taken under the Call In and Urgency provisions of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Article 11) of the Constitution since the last report to Council;**

Decision reference	Subject	Decision Taker	Reasons for Urgency
5128	Installation of Temporary Accommodation – Bluecoat Wollaton Academy	Executive Member for Children, Young People and Schools	To enable the accommodation to be fitted in time for use from September 2024
5129	Transportation of Passenger Transport Services and School Trips, and	Leader of the Council	To enable continuation of service until a Dynamic Purchasing System

	School Meals Transport		is in place
5133	Midlands Net Zero Hub Grant Funding – Local Net Zero Programme	Leader of the Council	A draft Memorandum of Understanding had just been received from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero with sign off required by 11 June 2024

(2) no decisions had been taken under the special urgency provisions within the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Article 13) of the Constitution since the last report to Council.

27 Establishment of a New Accommodation Business Improvement District (Accommodation BID)

Councillor Ethan Radford, Executive Member for Skills, Growth and Economic Development, proposed the report regarding a proposed new Accommodation Business Improvement District (BID) and seeking approval to delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Growth and City Development to receive and consider the BID proposals and enter into an operating agreement with the newly established Nottingham Accommodation BID Company in the event of a successful outcome of the BID Ballot. The report was seconded by Councillor Steve Battlemuch.

Resolved to authorise the Corporate Director for Growth and City Development, in accordance with the requirements of The Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004 (“the Regulations”), to:

- i. receive the Accommodation BID proposals from the Nottingham BID Company (“the BID Proposer”) on behalf of Nottingham City Council (“the Council”);**
- ii. consider the proposals to establish whether or not they are of the view that the proposals conflict with Council policy, and if so to notify the BID Proposer of any such conflict;**
- iii. approve the Accommodation BID 5 year business plan;**
- iv. instruct the Council’s Returning Officer as Ballot Holder to hold a BID ballot for the proposed Accommodation BID;**
- v. in the event of a vote in favour of the Accommodation BID proposals to consider whether any prescribed circumstances as defined in the Regulations apply and if so to decide whether or not to exercise a veto having regard to matters prescribed in the Regulations;**
- vi. in the event of a vote in favour of the Accommodation BID proposal and subject to any veto, to enter into an Operating Agreement under which the Council will collect the levy due on behalf of the BID.**

28 Nottingham Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2024 - 2027

Councillor Corall Jenkins, Executive Member for Communities, Waste and Equalities, proposed the report asking Council to approve the Nottingham Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2024 to 2027. The Strategy was approved by the Nottingham Community Safety Partnership Board in March 2024 and is in line with the findings of the Strategic Assessment 2023 and the priorities and targets agreed by the Board. It sets out how the Council will work in partnership to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour over the next three years. The report was seconded by Councillor Neghat Khan.

In response to a question for clarification asked by Councillor Andrew Rule, Councillor Corall Jenkins replied that it was unlikely that Vernon Coaker would be continuing as Chair of the Nottingham Community Safety Partnership Board following his recent appointment as Defence Secretary.

Resolved to approve and adopt the Nottingham Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2024 to 2027, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

29 Review of Statement of Gambling Policy

Councillor Audrey Dinnall, Chair of the Licensing Committee, proposed the report asking Council to approve a draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2025 - 2028 to go out for an eight week consultation starting on 9 July. Consultation will take place with responsible authorities, local and national businesses and citizens. She highlighted that the draft Policy includes the retention of a 'no casino' resolution. Following consultation, the final Policy will be presented to Council in November 2024 for adoption and commencement from January 2025. The report was seconded by Councillor Corall Jenkins.

Resolved:

- (1) to approve the draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2025 – 2028 attached at Appendix 1 for release for consultation purposes; and**
- (2) to include the retention of a 'no casino' resolution as part of the public consultation.**

30 Amendments to the Constitution

Councillor Pavlos Kotsonis, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, proposed the report recommending that Council amend the terms of reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board and update Article 9 Non-Executive Functions and Committees of the Constitution to reflect that amendment; and note that Article 10 Executive Arrangements of the Constitution had been amended to reflect a change made by the Leader of the Council to the terms of reference for the Companies Governance Executive Committee. The report was seconded by Councillor Ethan Radford.

Resolved to:

- (1) amend the terms of reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board to:**
 - a. replace the Corporate Director for People and Director for Adult Health and Care with the Corporate Director for Children and Education (director of children’s services) and Corporate Director for Adult Social Care and Health (director of adult social services) as voting members of the Board; and**
 - b. change objective (f) to “agree and oversee delivery of the Better Care Fund, including discharge of all functions that are the responsibility of the Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in the Section 75 Agreement”;**

- (2) amend Article 9 Non-Executive Functions and Committees of the Constitution to reflect these changes to the Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference;**

- (3) note that the Leader of the Council has amended the terms of reference for the Companies Governance Executive Committee to remove the requirement for a specific Executive Member to chair the Committee and appoint Councillor Ethan Radford to replace Councillor Linda Woodings as Chair; and that Article 10 Executive Arrangements of the Constitution has been amended to reflect this change.**

31 Extraordinary Council Meeting

Resolved to hold an Extraordinary Council meeting on 5 August 2024 at 6pm to consider the appointment of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and the Council’s Improvement Plan.

The Meeting concluded at 3.30 pm