

Public Document Pack

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Old Market Square

on 11 November 2019 from 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

ATTENDANCES:

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

✓ Indicates present at meeting

46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Hassan Ahmed (unwell)
Councillor Eunice Campbell-Clark (unwell)
Councillor Dave Liversidge (unwell)
Councillor Georgia Power (unwell)
Councillor Audra Wynter (unwell)

47 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

48 QUESTIONS FROM CITIZENS

None

49 PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS ON BEHALF OF CITIZENS

None

50 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2019

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 9 September 2019 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

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

Ian Curryer, Chief Executive, reported the following:

Remembrance Day

The annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving was held on 10 November at the Victoria Embankment War Memorial, followed by a march by the South Notts Hussars from St Mary's Church to Old Market Square. On the morning of 11 November councillors and citizens gathered outside the Council House to observe two minutes silence to honour the memory of those who have died and pledge to care for the living.

Nottingham Awards 2019

Following the 725th Goose Fair opening and dinner in October, four local citizens - George Akins, Dalton Stephens, David Stewart and Phyllis Brackenbury – were presented with a Nottingham Award recognising their contribution to the City.

Eric Irons

A plaque has been installed on the National Justice Museum to commemorate the achievements of Eric Irons, Britain's first black magistrate and a campaigner for social justice. Amongst his achievements, he helped to lift the ban on black people working for a transport company and helped the Council address problems highlighted following the 1958 Race Riots. He was awarded an OBE in 1977.

Recognition of work to develop sustainable vehicle fleet

The Innovation and Change Team in Parking, Fleet and Transport won the Best Efficiency and Transformation Award at the APSE Awards for their work in developing an electric vehicle fleet. The Council was also 'highly commended' at the National Transport Awards for its contribution to sustainable transport across both

public and private sectors, in particular the development of a sustainable fleet. 30% of the vehicle fleet in Neighbourhood Services will be electric by the end of the year and these electric vehicles will realise savings of 154 tonnes of CO2 every year they are in service.

LGiU Councillor Achievement Award

Councillor Sally Longford was awarded the Environment and Sustainability Pioneer Award at the LGiU Councillor Achievement Awards in November. The award recognises Councillor Longford's passion for the environment and sustainability and her work in driving forward the Council's pledges such as becoming carbon neutral by 2028 and becoming single-use plastic free.

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

None

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

Knife related crime

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

Following the welcome news that Police figures show a reduction in knife related crime across Nottingham compared with last year, would the Leader of the Council support the knife angel monument coming to Nottingham as a symbol against violence and aggression in our City and as a powerful message of the impact that knife crime has on victims and their families?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and can I thank Councillor Rule for his question. Keeping our City safe is a top priority and one that I am committed to delivering. The causes of crime often begin long before a crime is committed, and to truly make a difference we have to intervene early to prevent these underlying causes from emerging in our communities. To do that it takes time, effort, resources and money, all of which is in short supply and needs to be spent on earlier intervention, as well as on catching criminals.

As long as citizens both young and old feel it is necessary to have a knife in their pocket to be safe, then there is more work to be done. A safer City won't happen overnight, but I remain committed as Leader of the Council to ensuring that it remains a top priority for everyone in Nottingham.

It is important to be clear, we are making progress to reduce knife crime in our City. The latest figures from the Crime and Drugs Partnership show knife crime offences in the City fell by 17% over the past 12 months, but while this is welcome news this is still far too many cases of knife crime and we can never be complacent.

We are continuing to help rehabilitate those who might be at risk of repeat offending by working with Probation Services to create positive opportunities, including education, employment or training, and finding the right support for young people or adults.

Lord Mayor, if Councillor Rule is committed truly to supporting continued reductions in serious crime in our City, then perhaps he will join me in asking for greater protection of public services following nine years of sustained cuts to Police budgets, which have led to the loss of 10,000 Police Officers on the streets up and down the country. The Tories never learn. Whilst a Labour Government increased Police and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) numbers, championing community policing, and crime fell hugely, the Tories have cut the Police numbers and, lo and behold, crime has risen. We know that a Labour Government would invest in front line Police Officers and PCSOs that our cities and communities so desperately need.

Lord Mayor, the people across the country have a clear choice in the coming weeks: voting for a Government that has continually promised one thing whilst in office and delivered little for local people, cutting direct funding for Police forces by £3.6 billion; or a Labour Government who will put thousands of Officers back on the streets, keeping our communities safe.

As for the knife angel, well, it may be imposing and striking, but I think the potential for it to be misunderstood is quite high. For every person who is made to think about knife crime when they see the statue, I feel there will be another person who will find the statue offensive.

We have proved that in partnership we can bring knife crime figures down in Nottingham and will continue to do everything we can to bring these numbers down further. There are no plans to bring the knife angel to Nottingham.

Recycled waste

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

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm what processes and checks the Council has in place for ensuring that recycled waste does not end up in landfill?

Councillor Sally Longford replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and thank you Councillor Rule for your interesting question. The Council has a statutory obligation to report on a quarterly basis to the Environment Agency on recycling statistics, including its end destination. Our contractor, ENVA, formally known as Wastecycle, provides a complete audit trail to us of all the presented and subsequently sorted material for recycling by type, including their ultimate end destination, and has a similar duty to report their input and output to the Environment Agency. Data for 2018/19 shows that only 7.6% of waste paper and card was exported outside of the EU. ENVA are committed to landfill avoidance, reportedly sending less than 5% of all the waste that they collect at their facility to landfill. A small proportion of our residual i.e. non-recyclable material is sent to landfill, most commonly during the Eastcroft Incinerator annual shutdown

for essential maintenance work in the summer, but landfilling only occurs when the amount of material which is sent to ENVA in that annual period exceeds their ability to process it for recyclables. Contamination, which includes non-target reject materials, is separated during the sorting process at Wastecycle ENVA from the recyclable material, and has to be separately treated. Rather than landfilling the seriously contaminated material, ENVA divert this waste-stream into a further process, where it is converted into refuse-derived fuel (RDF), which is an alternative fuel source for cement kilns, and so avoids landfill. I believe Councillor Rule has had the opportunity to visit ENVA and witness the operation first hand, which I'm sure he found really interesting, as I have.

I'm glad to report to Council that there is a great deal of work currently underway to improve our recycling rate, reduce contamination and, therefore, achieve a higher return on recyclable goods and a greater recovery of material contributing to our carbon-neutral goal. ENVA is supporting us in engaging with contamination work by providing us with funding to employ staff who can tackle this persistent problem, they are as keen as us to reduce contamination. The current Nottingham University Student Union Officer responsible for the environment is also working hard to educate students on how to recycle right, and I was recently happy to join a group of volunteer students talking to other students about waste-management issues in Lenton. Our Community Protection officers are always out in neighbourhoods spreading the word about how to recycle and manage waste, supporting citizens to live sustainably. We also have a review underway of how we collect, what we collect and how we can improve the recycling service in the City. This will obviously be influenced by government policy and I'm hoping a future government will provide adequate funding to implement any such plans.

I have to say that I am concerned that despite a decent stab at a waste resources strategy that the last Tory government put together, they do not have a good record of funding local government, as we all know, and therefore could not be relied upon to provide adequate resources to implement their plans for food waste collection and other important steps. I hope that things will change after 12 December and that our ambitious plans to press on towards a carbon-neutral city will not be further held back by debilitating years of Tory austerity and mis-rule.

Robin Hood Energy

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

Would the Portfolio Holder for Finance agree with me that following the reported injection of circa £9.5million the Council had to provide to Robin Hood Energy, it would be prudent for the Council to establish a resilience reserve to ease any unforeseen financial liabilities that may arise in respect of Council owned companies?

Councillor Sam Webster replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor. It is an interesting suggestion. Nottingham City Council is a large and complex organisation, as you'll appreciate. Severe reductions in Government funding for councils to deliver public services over the Tory decade of austerity have undoubtedly had an effect on the financial resilience of local

authorities, and there certainly are greater financial risks for councils, probably more so now than ever before due to chronic under funding of councils by the Government.

When we compare ourselves to a number of Conservative-run councils, we've done things differently: firstly by investing locally; secondly by retaining our assets for the benefit of Nottingham people for example Nottingham City Transport, Nottingham City Homes, the Royal Centre, the National Ice Centre, and earning income to fund frontline services from those assets; and thirdly by acting responsibly in respect of the Council's finances. So where as we all know that Conservative-led Northamptonshire used up all of its reserves and, therefore, effectively went bankrupt, that is not the case in Nottingham.

So I take the point on board Councillor Rule, and you're correct that reserves to cover both the expected and unexpected are essential but, when you raise as a concern unforeseen financial liabilities, please understand that the biggest financial liability for this City, for this Council, for the people we employ and for the people who rely on local public services, the biggest financial liability by a long way has been the Conservative Government that he supports and promotes. Our core funding from government is now over £100million less per year than it was when his Party took office, £100million per year taken away from Nottingham residents. If your concern for your City, Councillor Rule, is genuine, that's the kind of liability you should be highlighting.

Potholes

Councillor Andrew Rule asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Local Transport:

The Council Plan includes a pledge from the Nottingham Labour manifesto to fix 50,000 potholes over the next four years. Given that over the last four years, 41,236 potholes have been filled, and in the last two years, the number of potholes filled has declined year on year, whilst the cost has increased, how does the Portfolio Holder envisage that this pledge will be delivered?

Councillor Adele Williams replied as follows:

Thank you Councillor Rule, thank you for your question. The data you quote is actually about pothole temporary repairs, not the permanent repairs that are obviously preferable.

What we plan to do in the course of implementing the manifesto promises that we were elected on is aligned with good practice and with the asset management approach that is encouraged by the Department for Transport (DfT). We don't want to be doing temporary repairs, we want to be maintaining our highway assets in a way that gets the most from our resources and keeps Nottingham moving with the least disruption.

All of the Government guidance, quite rightly, asks us to prioritise prevention, and because we're turning our resources to prevention, we're actually doing more with our resources. So I hope that Councillor Rule will join with us in asking for more for our City.

So as I mentioned, the reported data is only for temporary potholes. In Highways we try to do the permanent repairs where we can. This is positive and we've seen an increase in permanent small-scale repairs, which is a good direction of travel. As such, that means that the temporary pothole repairs have fallen over the last four years, but that's no bad thing because we don't want to be repeatedly fixing potholes with temporary measures do we?

Highway maintenance follows recommendations from 'Prevention and a Better Cure - Potholes Review' document which came from the DfT, and it highlights three main themes:

- prevention being better than cure - intervening at the right time prevents more potholes forming, obviously costing us more later;
- right the first time - do it once and do it right - so rather than face continuous bills, just do the job right the first time, and with our Highways staff I'm confident that we're able to do that and I thank them for the work they do;
- the last point they ask us to do is provide clarity for the public, so I hope this pledge really helps with that. Local highways authorities need to communicate to the public what's been done, and how and why they're doing it.

So I think the public, and perhaps even Councillor Rule, will be happy to know that we're meeting our pledges by using our resources to the best effect, and I hope he'll join with us in asking for more for Nottingham, enough for Nottingham, because the Tory Government has stripped the funding from our City.

Will he join with us in asking for more: more for our schools, more for our adults who need support to live their fullest lives, and more for our children in need, because of course, while the Tories have managed to find enough money for tax cuts for the rich, they didn't find a money tree for Nottingham. Nottingham people will remember that when the choice is made in December.

Robin Hood Energy

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

It has been with great concern and unease that we in the Nottingham Independents have watched the recent developments at Robin Hood Energy. Whilst we strongly believe that any attempt to battle fuel poverty should be applauded, the situation at this council-owned company seems to get more precarious by the day. Now reportedly needing a council loan of just short of £10million just to keep operating and reportedly bringing the total council exposure to an estimated £50million, can the Portfolio Holder in all honesty tell us that he still maintains that Robin Hood Energy provides value for money for the Nottingham taxpayer?

Councillor Sam Webster replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you for your question Councillor Clarke. I suppose it really depends on your definition of value for money. It's true that this Council has issued loans to Robin Hood Energy. Those loans are interest bearing. Loan repayments deliver a revenue benefit to the Council and that revenue benefit supports front-line services for many of the people we represent and rely on.

Summerwood Day Centre

Councillor Maria Watson asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Local Transport:

The Portfolio Holder will be aware of the fantastic and invaluable work of Summerwood Day Centre, located within my own ward of Clifton. Summerwood, the only day centre in an area of upwards of 28,000 people, provides opportunities and support to people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities to help them lead healthy independent lives. The centre offers activities focusing on recreational, educational and life skills, with the aim of developing, maintaining and preventing the loss of a person's independence. Will she join us in acknowledging the incredible work that Summerwood Day Centre and its staff do, and give us the assurance that they will continue to be provided the direct funding they need to carry on providing this service long into the future?

Councillor Adele Williams replied as follows:

Thank you Councillor Watson for that question. I really welcome your question and the opportunity to thank staff for the great work they do in partnership with the citizens there and their families.

I've visited Summerwood Day Centre as a Portfolio Holder and spoken with some of the citizens who attend the service. I've also met with the staff and I really recognise the quality of the work they do and the value that brings to the citizens and their families.

You'll be aware that in Adult Social Care we've developed a new strategy called 'Better Lives, Better Outcomes' and one of the key principles of this is to ensure citizens are supported to develop independence and to be part of the local community. The Nottingham Pathway Service that we've discussed in this Chamber before has been supporting delivery of this by enabling citizens with learning disabilities to learn new skills and live independently. In Clifton that means undertaking travel training, allowing them to travel safely around Clifton and into the City, developing independent living skills to reduce their reliance on others, take on volunteering, access to get involved in wider social networks, local social community networks and assets. I've visited some of the community activities as well that citizens taking part in the Pathways Initiative have been accessing. So that service is to be expanded over the next 12 months and we'll build on the work that's already been achieved to ensure that learning-disabled citizens across the City are able to reach their full potential, including employment wherever possible.

I believe in an inclusive society where everyone is welcome, valued and expected to be part of all the activities that most of us do in our everyday lives. I think disabled young people and their families should be able to confidently expect that they'll have opportunities to get into employment, volunteering, social and leisure activities just like anyone else. Our 'Better Lives, Better Outcomes' strategy commits us to planning to meet these expectations and I expect that we'll continue to review our services to make sure they are set up in such a way as to support this direction of travel. There will always be a need for day services though. We expect day services

to change over time as they have been doing in Clifton and across the City, but I can confirm that we will continue to be committed to ensuring day services will keep being supported and to support our citizens with learning disabilities.

Again, I do welcome this question because I hope Councillor Watson's interest in adult social care might prompt her to join with us in reminding the Conservatives here and elsewhere that their Party has five times delayed the Adult Social Care Green Paper. Even after Matt Hancock gave himself a very firm deadline of Easter. No doubt, there'll be more promises from that Party this election but people, and perhaps Councillor Watson, will join me in being sceptical because if they're planning further tax cuts for the richest, if they're planning to keep letting the big corporations off with paying more than a gesture towards their fair share, then where is the money coming from? And also, after many, many years in power, where's the plan? You might be aware that the Tory Government has stripped out £8 billion from adult social care budgets nationally. It's sting is worse for us here in Nottingham because we're not a wealthy corner of the South-East, so have more citizens with complex needs and fewer citizens able to pay to meet their care needs. When, as they have done in some previous years and perhaps this might be the plan again, the Tories offer us the dubious bounty of the opportunity to ask our hard-pressed citizens to pay a social care precept, what they are really doing is pushing this cost back to the poorest areas, so those least able to pay, pay more. On top of that, we would get less, as 1% on our council tax raises less than it would in wealthier local authorities. So this is another example of the Tories leaving those with the greatest need having to shoulder the burden of the financial crisis and their ongoing commitment to those with plenty. So please join with us in asking for more: more for Nottingham, more for the people we want to support to live the best lives they can.

Knife related crime

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

I'm sure every councillor here, and indeed every citizen of Nottingham, has welcomed the news that the latest police figures show a significant drop in knife-related crime across the city, and across Nottinghamshire as a whole. The success should be a great source of pride for everyone involved in the fight against violent crime, whether they be from the Council, the Police, voluntary and youth organisations, or from the local community. However, we shouldn't become complacent due to short-term success. Knife-related crime is still a dangerous and prevalent problem within Nottingham. Can the Leader assure us that tackling this type of crime will remain a long-term priority of the City Council, even in the face of reduced budgets and financial challenges?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor, and can I thank Councillor Watson for her question. I obviously covered some of this in my answer to Councillor Rule earlier but I'm hoping that reduced budgets and financial challenges are going to be something that we have less of in the future, rather than more of.

I agree that the latest figures showing a significant decrease in knife crime in Nottingham are very welcome and I can assure Councillor Watson and colleagues

across the Chamber that Nottingham City Council and our partners are not complacent about tackling knife crime and the underlying causes. We are committed to maintaining our public health approach in partnership with all key agencies, including public protection, Police, social care, schools, voluntary and community organisations and other groups working in this area. Reducing the risk of knife crime and youth violence includes work that we have done with our Youth Justice Service, a specially formed dedicated knife crime hub (to support and reach young people locally). We are also working with the County Council, with a nationally funded Violence Reduction Unit and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

We know that it's really important that our young people have access to good youth opportunities and have hope that they can achieve an education and positive options for work. School is a very important place to get the message out about the dangers of knife crime to all young people, and since 2018, through our programmes in schools, we have reached 2,637 primary school children and 1,352 secondary school children. In 2018/19 we delivered the 'Street Aware' programme, providing awareness raising lessons across 55 primary schools, outlining to them the risk of criminal gangs, which included grooming, making good decisions and where and how to get help. We also covered issues relating to the law about knives and the risk of harm. We also provided awareness raising sessions, which included intensive 6-week programmes across 7 secondary schools and 3 alternative provisions. The sessions included work on the consequences of offending, joint enterprise, and county lines grooming. For this current year, 2019/20, we have bookings across 25 schools so far, and we'll be repeating that work programme outlined above. Initial evaluation for the programmes delivered in 2018/19 has been positive, and has demonstrated that children and young people are benefiting from the session.

In our play and youth service, sadly much smaller in size than it was, we are currently delivering 34 sessions per week across the City, supplemented by targeted sessions for those young people identified as being at risk from knife crime and child criminal exploitation. From the Area Based Grants and money from the Police Commissioner's Office, we also fund several local community-based organisations to provide universal services across the City that complement the targeted work delivered by our play and youth staff.

Furthermore, the City Council is proud to be a member of the Violence Reduction Unit, a national organisation that has been funded from central government. We are working with partners across the City and County to reduce violence. The initial priority of the Unit will be working with core provision and Police colleagues to reduce weapon-enabled violence in public spaces. In the longer term, the Unit is seeking to understand what causes violence so that we can prevent and intervene and treat those causes. Because knife crime is not just a problem amongst teenagers, we have recently been able to grant-fund voluntary sector organisations working with 18-24 year olds where there is concern that knife crime is significant. The Violence Reduction Unit will seek to understand the needs of our communities through identifying what works, commissioning and implementing evidence-based interventions, sharing evidence locally and nationally, and evaluating impact. We believe prevention is better than cure, and in being part of the Violence Reduction Unit we hope to establish long-term sustainable solutions to serious violence, including knife crime. Intervening early builds resilience, reduces the aspects of

adversity and changes community norms through educational policy to prevent issues emerging.

Unfortunately knives are often used regularly in domestic violence incidents and that is why this month's 'white ribbon' campaign is so important, to raise the profile of violence behind closed doors and to make sure that people who find themselves in those situations know where to get help.

Goose Fair

Councillor Kirsty Jones asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

I am sure I speak for every councillor here, when I congratulate everyone involved with the 725th annual Goosefair. The event is undoubtedly one of the highlights of Nottingham's cultural calendar. With its bright lights, the smells of the food stalls, the noise and the atmosphere, it has once again been a fantastic triumph. Will the Leader of the Council join me in thanking the thousands of people who have made it such a success? The people who man the rides, the 100+ police officers who keep us safe, those who have to clean up the hundreds of tons of rubbish after it's all over, everyone within the Council who help organise it, and our own Councillor Trimble. Will he also join me in a special thanks to the famous 'Cock on a Stick' vendor, who retires this year after 70 years of trading at the Goosefair?

Councillor David Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank Councillor Jones for her question wishing to thank everyone involved with the 725th annual Goose Fair. I'm of course delighted to echo this sentiment.

This year's Goose Fair was an outstanding success, and has a positive effect on the cultural and economic offer for the City. It is one of Europe's largest fairs, enjoyed by so many local people and visitors in a safe environment. I wish to thank Councillor Trimble, the Showman's Guild, which in spite of unprecedented rainfall still put on a great show, and of course the Council's team supporting the fair, and clearing up so efficiently after the end of the fair.

This year's event attracted over 421,000 people, an increase of 60,000 people on 2018. Many visitors used public transport to travel to the event, with NET tram ticket sales increasing by 2.3% year on year and an additional 3,600 riders on the Queens Drive Park and Ride service. Digital discount ride vouchers and the single-use plastic policy were launched this year and we hope both will be developed in future years to reduce the carbon footprint. A flavour of Europe was introduced with Hungarian pastries, called Chimney Cakes, and a large number of other stalls selling food as diverse as Swiss raclette, German bratwurst and French crepe, and despite our concentration on Brexit, they were all very popular. This year we had a great mix of traditional and thrill rides, with not 1 but 2 'star flyers' and the first year for a 'Jumper Jumper' ride - I missed that one!

The live stream on Facebook of you, Lord Mayor, and Councillor Trimble, being involved in the traditional opening and bell ringing had over 3,500 views on the 'What's on Nottingham' site, what a wonderful way to share the tradition and the

profile of the City. And whilst it will be sad to see that this particular 'Cock on a Stick' seller may not be a part of Goose Fair for another year, although there is some controversy about whether that is the case, if he is retiring I wish him well in his retirement and I'm sure traditions will continue with new show characters coming forward, and I'm sure the event will get bigger and bigger each year.

Domestic violence refuge beds

Councillor Lauren O'Grady asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Heritage:

Could the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Heritage tell us how many refuge beds Nottingham needs to meet new national rules for domestic violence and if they know whether Government funding will be made available to meet the gap?

Councillor Linda Woodings replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor O'Grady for your question. As outlined in the Queen's Speech on 14 October this year, the Government intended to change the landmark Domestic Abuse Bill to include for the first time a statutory duty on councils to provide support. We welcome this as long as it comes with a sufficient level of funding. The duty was scheduled to come into effect in April 2021, and it's understood that the duty was to be funded from April 2021 as well, but sadly they added the caveat that this was subject to future spending review discussions, so don't hold your breath! The Bill was at second reading stage before the illegal suspension of Parliament by Boris Johnson, and then it was re-announced in the pointless Queens Speech held just days before Boris started to argue for a General Election. Sadly the Domestic Abuse Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before dissolution, that means it will make no further progress and will have to be re-introduced in the next Parliament.

However, in anticipation of the Bill, in the summer I asked officers to put together a detailed set of costings so that we know what funding will be required once the statutory duty comes into effect, and it's this piece of work that I am quoting from now. Nottingham City Council currently commissions three refuges containing 31 bed spaces, based on the Government's recommendation which dates back to 1975 based on one refuge place per 10,000 of population. We do have a further six complex-needs places, funded by a separate Government grant, successfully bid for from the 'Response to Complexity' fund as well, but that's run by central refuge, which is not a commissioned refuge. Now, just to clarify, there is a discussion at national level about which measures will be used to calculate refuge numbers. The Local Government Association believes that the Council for Europe recommendation of 1997, of one refuge space per 7,500 head of population, may be used for the duty. That will mean a requirement of 41 bed spaces in Nottingham, so that's an additional 10. Each commissioned bed space costs £15,000 per year, so in Nottingham that means an additional £150,000 per year for the accommodation alone.

But we believe it's likely the statutory duty will also require a local authority to assess the need and demand for accommodation-based support for all victims and their children, including those who require cross-border support, and to develop and publish strategies for the provision of support to cover the locality and diverse groups

of victims. So this could mean additional costs of voluntary sector children's workers, up to 12 'move on' bed spaces and also specialist therapeutic services for adults and for children, and there may also be a need for additional translation and interpretation services, and those additional costs are estimated to be just over £800,000, in addition to the bed spaces of £150,000.

So as I said at the beginning of my contribution, we welcome the eventual enactment of this Bill, because it is a scandal that the austerity programme of this Government, deliberately taking money away from local authorities, has meant that cuts in funding to councils have led to domestic violence funding and refuge spaces falling dramatically across the country. I'm very proud of the fact that here in Nottingham, Labour has committed again and again to protect our Nottingham domestic violence services. In March this year, Women's Aid nationally produced a report outlining the need to protect domestic violence services as a statutory duty. Their report found a shocking national decrease in most domestic violence services in the country - this was in December 2018. It concluded that formal counselling services had fallen by 18% since May 2017 and that the number of refuge bed spaces in England fell far short of the minimum recommended by the Council of Europe, 1,715 bed spaces short. 30% of services reported that since 2015 they'd had to reduce the level of support they were able to give to each survivor due to funding. Most shockingly of all, 60% of all referrals, so 6 out of 10 referrals, to request refuge spaces were declined, and the reason they were declined was a lack of space or capacity to support that survivor. Over half of survivors in 2017 and 2018 had children, and 6% were pregnant. However, just half of the refuge space vacancies could accommodate a woman with two children, and only one-fifth (20%) could accommodate a woman with three children.

Colleagues, these are frightening statistics. The systematic under-funding of council services across the UK by this Tory Government has left women and children at risk, and we still live with the grim statistic, highlighted at the weekend by the 'reclaim the night' march here in Nottingham, that two women every week are killed by a partner or a former partner. That statistic has never changed – 2 women a week, dead because they couldn't get refuge.

So colleagues, I'm certain that in Nottingham we have quantified exactly how much extra funding will be needed. What I'm not certain of with this current Tory Government is whether they have the decency to actually fund the necessary extra services. Colleagues, real change is needed to save the lives of women and children, and let's hope in December we see that change.

Fire safety in high-rise blocks

Councillor Sam Gardiner asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Heritage:

How much funding has the Government given for fire safety improvements to high-rise blocks in Nottingham?

Councillor Linda Woodings replied as follows:

Nothing.

Food banks

Councillor Jawaid Khalil asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Communities:

Could the Portfolio Holder for Communities tell us how many people used Nottingham food banks in the past year and how this compares with the last four years?

Councillor Rebecca Langton replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank you Councillor Khalil for his question. Exact figures on the number of people using food banks in Nottingham are difficult to come across because food banks are run by a range of different local charities, and there isn't one definitive list. However the figures we do have paint an alarming picture of the worsening situation ordinary Nottingham people are facing. Last year, across the country, the Trussell Trust distributed 1.6million parcels to people in need, that's a 73% increase in just 5 years. 26,678 of these food parcels were distributed in Nottinghamshire, that's up from 23,000 the year before. Across the East Midlands, food bank use is up 54% since 2015. The story is the same in other food banks in the City. The Bestwood and Bulwell food bank have had their busiest summer ever, with more and more children facing hunger in the school holidays. Their figures show a 35% increase in food bank use since 2015.

The top three reasons why people visited food banks in the last year were income not covering essential costs, benefit delays and benefit changes. These things are not inevitable. Increasing demand for food banks, driven by the rising costs of living, inadequate and insecure wages and cuts to benefits that are supposed to keep families out of poverty are a political choice. At our last full Council meeting, Councillor Power brought forward a motion, supported by Labour councillors in this Chamber, expressing our commitment to supporting food banks as a lifeline for many in this City. In that debate, many of us expressed our disgust at a Government that has overseen rising poverty levels and worsening economic conditions for ordinary people in Nottingham. After all, this is the fifth richest country in the world, and in this country, food banks should not be a necessity. They are a by-product of decisions made by out of touch Conservative politicians, many backed up by the Lib Dems, that favour a small number of people who are already doing well in life. They fail to recognise that many people work harder than they ever will, have overcome obstacles that they can't imagine, but their starting point and opportunities are very different.

In 2010, the Trussell Trust distributed 41,000 food parcels in the whole country; the latest figures show that in the last 9 years, under the Conservatives, demand for their support has increased by 3,802%. I double-checked that figure – a 3,802% in 9 years.

Lord Mayor, one particularly alarming fact is that Universal Credit is a common thread for many of those who are pushed to use food banks in our City. Over the last year, 76% of the referrals Nottingham City Homes made to food banks were due to

Universal Credit. Forcing households to wait five weeks with no income for their first payment leaves families, who already didn't have much income, without anything at all. Nothing to pay their rent, their bills, to pay for travel, to pay for school uniforms or even to buy food. This is completely inhumane and Nottingham City Council has repeatedly called on the Government to halt the roll-out of Universal Credit until the five week wait has been eradicated. But this December there is an opportunity to vote for real change. The Labour Party is the only Party pledging to scrap Universal Credit altogether.

Later on in this Council meeting, I'm proposing a motion which talks about money. It recognises the many challenges that face Nottingham people, as well as the resilience and generosity of spirit that we see in our City. But we shouldn't have to use our time at Council discussing these issues. We need a Labour Government that not only talks about tackling the burning injustices we all know exist, but that has actually shown a commitment to doing something about them.

Lord Mayor, I'm also concerned that for every person who does seek help and walks through the doors of a food bank, there may be many others who haven't been able to get that support, don't know where to turn to, or don't feel able to take up that offer.

I want to finish by saying this. Since I was elected, I've spent time with the volunteers at Bilborough food bank and have recently started volunteering there myself. They are kind, friendly, ordinary people who want to be there for their neighbours and peers in their moment of crisis. But they're also aware that there can be a stigma attached with seeking help, so they work hard to make Bilborough food bank welcoming and friendly. Indeed, many people pop in for a cup of tea and a chat, not necessarily a food parcel. I know this is true of food banks across the City and I want to take a moment to thank the many volunteers without whom thousands of people in Nottingham wouldn't get a meal.

And to anyone who is struggling for food to eat, let me say this: there is no shame or stigma in seeking help from one of the many food banks in Nottingham. I'm very confident that wherever you turn to you can be sure of a warm welcome, a smiling face, no probing questions and absolutely no judgement, because the only people who should feel ashamed about food bank use are the Conservative Government who have pushed Nottingham families to needing food banks to put food on their table.

Local government finance

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

Why does the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Growth and the City Centre think that the Government has cut £529 per Nottingham household since 2011, whilst at the same time giving an increase of £19 per household in Surrey?

Councillor Sam Webster replied as follows:

Thank you Councillor for your question. It's a very important question in my view as our residents prepare to vote on 12 December. Sadly, it's a fact that over the last

decade our people in Nottingham have been targeted for the deepest cuts: a Conservative Party policy. Austerity as we know is a political choice; it's a Conservative Party policy. Bad enough that we have a Government that chooses to prioritise the billionaires, the bankers and the big corporations over people struggling to make ends meet, over small independent businesses and over public servants working in our schools, hospitals and emergency services. It's not a coincidence, or something we have no control over, or just a theory, it is in fact a Conservative Party policy. All bad enough, but when you realise that Conservative austerity has been applied in such a biased and overtly political way you realise that cities like Nottingham have been chosen to bear the brunt of austerity, that's when it becomes obvious why our City and our residents are right to be outraged.

We need to let those numbers sink in and let them be understood. These are official statistics, the Government's own figures. Since 2011, the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats in Government have taken away £529 per Nottingham household. At the same time, they've cut nothing from some very wealthy areas of the country. Take Surrey as an example, one of the wealthiest parts of the country, no cut, NO CUT. In fact £19 per household extra money for Surrey, £529 less per household for Nottingham; £529 less per household in Clifton, Bulwell, Bilborough, Radford, Wilford, Sneinton, St Anns and everywhere else in our great City, £529 taken away, but £19 more per household in Surrey. A Conservative Party policy.

And it's not just us, our City now gets over £100million per year less than it did when the Conservatives came to power, that's led to a quarter of a billion pounds worth of savings that we've had to make. No, it's not just us. The Tories have been pretty forensic about their policy. Big cities like Nottingham they've targeted for cuts; places in the North and the Midlands, like Nottingham, they've targeted for cuts; places where the population is poorer, like Nottingham, they've targeted for cuts; areas with more elderly people who are unable to fund their own care, like Nottingham, they've targeted for cuts; schools in more deprived urban towns and cities, just like Nottingham, they've targeted for cuts; areas where there are more children in need of social care intervention and support, like Nottingham, they've targeted for cuts; and yes, those areas where life expectancy is shorter and health inequalities rage, they've targeted for cuts. So if you're in Hull, Wigan, Derby, Barnsley, Mansfield, Manchester or anywhere else that fits the criteria under the Conservative Party austerity policy, you'll have seen the difference in your community. You'll have seen local services cut to the bone, you'll have seen more rough sleeping, more families waiting for housing, more people on zero-hour contracts doing insecure work, bigger class sizes, more people relying on local food banks, you'll even have seen prisoners being released from prison onto the streets with no housing, and you'll have waited longer to see your doctor, and I could go on.

So to go back to your very straightforward question Councillor Joannou, that you asked me on behalf of your residents in Bulwell, why has the Government cut £529 per Nottingham household, while at the same time giving an additional £19 per household to people in Surrey? Well the simple answer is Conservative Party policy. A policy that we've come to describe here in Nottingham as 'the reverse Robin Hood' – taking from the poor to give to the rich. The message from our residents has been consistently clear; they want their £529 back: for housing, for schools, for youth provision, for public transport, for tackling crime, they want their £529 back. In the run up to the General Election, we're putting Boris Johnson, his wealthy backers, and

his Russian donors on notice – your rotten policies, that have done so much damage to so many people have no support here. It's time to end this era of Tory mis-rule. It's time for a new Government that will put the interests of the many ahead of the vested interests of the wealthiest few. For real change, vote Labour.

54 COUNCIL PLAN 2019-23

Councillor David Mellen, Leader of the Council, presented the report proposing adoption of the Council Plan for 2019 to 2023.

RESOLVED to approve the Nottingham City Council Plan 2019-2023 as set out in the appendix to the report.

55 DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES

Councillor David Mellen, Leader of the Council, presented the report detailing decisions taken under procedures that include exemption from Overview and Scrutiny Call In Procedure Rules and Special Urgency Access to Information Rules.

RESOLVED to note

(1) the urgent decisions (exempt from call in)

Decision Reference Number	Date of Decision	Subject	Value of Decision	Reasons for Urgency
3626	29 August 2019	Highway Services	Exempt	To comply with legal timeframes and prevent increased costs.
3630	4 September 2019	Approval of revised Articles of Association for Nottingham City Homes	Nil	To enable the proposals to be submitted for approval at the Nottingham City Homes Annual Meeting.
3651	29 September 2019	Education and Skills Funding Agency – Adult Education Contract 2019/20	£551,768	Delay would have had an adverse impact on the ability to deliver the contract and put future Education and Skills Funding Agency contracts at risk.
3668	4 October 2019	Additional affordable housing acquisition at	Exempt	To enable a developer to be secured within the necessary

		Padstow, Bestwood		timescales. Delay would have put the desired outcomes of the scheme at risk.
3674	14 October 2019	Parent Company Guarantee	Exempt	Further costs would have been incurred to a wholly owned company as it would have been unable to urgently purchase commodities.
3680	16 October 2019	Midlands Engine appointment of ADE Regeneration Ltd	£33,600	The contract was required due to a vacancy in the team and cover was needed urgently to represent the Midlands Engine as 'client' on a portfolio of major projects.
Minute Ref: 46	22 October 2019	Financing arrangements	Exempt	One of the Council's group companies required alternative funding arrangements prior to the end of month. The Council was required to notify third parties of its intention to secure alternative financial arrangements by the end of 22 October 2019.

(2) the Key Decisions taken under Special Urgency Procedures

Decision Reference Number	Date of Decision	Subject	Value of Decision	Reasons for Special Urgency
3674	14 October 2019	Parent Company Guarantee	Exempt	Further costs would have been incurred to a wholly owned company as it would have been unable to urgently purchase commodities.
Minute Ref: 46	22 October 2019	Financing arrangements	Exempt	One of the Council's group companies

				required alternative funding arrangements prior to the end of the month. The Council was required to notify third parties of its intention to secure alternative financing arrangements by the end of 22 October 2019.
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56 CRIME AND DRUGS PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2019-2022

Councillor David Mellen, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Safety and Communications, presented the report proposing adoption of the Crime and Drugs Partnership Plan for 2019 to 2022.

RESOLVED to approve the Crime and Drugs Partnership Plan 2019 to 2022 as set out in the appendix to the report.

57 MOTION

Motion proposed by Councillor Rebecca Langton, seconded by Councillor Pavlos Kotsonis:

This Council recognises that 9 years of austerity, cuts to benefits, the introduction of Universal Credit, low and insecure wages, rising private sector rents and the rising cost of living have made life harder for Nottingham people.

The benefit cap, bedroom tax and benefits freeze alone have made Nottingham families an average of £320 per year worse off since 2016. This amounts to more than £53 million of welfare income taken away from Nottingham people. This is on top of losing £529 per household of council funding which has been lost since 2010. At the same time, the cost of living has risen faster than wages, with Nottingham households experiencing poverty up from 25.6%% to 30.8%.

This Council recognises that this time of year can be difficult for Nottingham people, with extra things to spend money on, from gifts to food and decorations to social engagements. The Bank of England estimates that a typical household spends an extra £500 in December.

The 2018 Citizens Survey found that 22% of people in Nottingham are struggling to keep up with bills and 38% of people do not know where to get financial advice and welfare information.

This Council resolves to:

- Campaign for a government that will:
 - reduce living costs

- deliver fair wages and secure jobs through a ‘Green Industrial Revolution’
- scrap universal credit
- put an end to austerity, with investment in public services including the NHS and the Police
- build more council housing to provide affordable good quality homes
- Protect funding for community based benefit and debt advice, and use our ‘MONEY’ campaign to increase the number of people who know where to get support and information
- Arrange drop-in welfare and debt advice sessions in every ward in the city
- Promote Nottingham’s Credit Union as an ethical alternative bank
- Protect services for the most vulnerable
- Sign-post people to help and advice through The Arrow, AskLion, MyNottingham social media pages, face to face sessions and frontline services

RESOLVED to carry the motion.

58 MOTION

Motion proposed by Councillor Salma Mumtaz, seconded by Councillor Linda Woodings:

Nottingham City Council regrets the decision by the Indian Government to revoke Article 370 and sub clause 35A of the constitution and end the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. Nottingham has a large community with Kashmiri heritage with many of them having friends or family currently living in or visiting the region. They are anxious about the threat to the peace and security of the region and the safety of people there following reports of human rights violations.

This Council recognises that events abroad can lead to concerns here. Nottingham is a diverse city where people from different backgrounds get on with each other and we reaffirm our commitment to community cohesion in our city.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Call on the UK Government to do all it can to bring the Indian and Pakistan Governments together to find a peaceful resolution which respects the rights of the Kashmiri people and implements the UN resolutions.
2. Recognise the strong ties between Nottingham and Kashmir and that many people in the City have Kashmiri heritage and ties to the region.
3. Write to the Foreign Secretary urging immediate action on the resolutions moved and agreed by this Council, and to express its concerns regarding the human rights violations and the threat of increased conflict in the region and beyond.

4. Call upon the Leader of the Council to write on behalf of Nottingham citizens to the High Commissioners of India calling for the immediate lifting of the curfew and restrictions on free speech and bring peace and stability to the region.
5. Continue to work with Nottingham's diverse communities from all backgrounds to encourage community cohesion and understanding of what we have in common

RESOLVED to carry the motion.

59 MEMBERSHIP CHANGE

The following committee membership changes were noted:

- (1) Councillor Leslie Ayoola has resigned as a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board; and
- (2) Councillor Merlita Bryan has resigned as a member of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

The Meeting concluded at 6.00 pm

Questions from Councillors Requiring a Written Response

Responses

WQ1

WRITTEN QUESTION ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2019

Could the Portfolio Holder for Energy, Environment and Democratic Services outline the objectives, both financial and strategic, behind the 'Unlocking Loxley' programme and confirm the cost of this programme both in financial terms and in colleague hours spent delivering it?

Response from Councillor Sally Longford:

Executive Board approved the Unlocking Loxley 2019 project in October 2018 with the allocation of £1.823m budget (capital) to deliver the works by December 2019.

1. Aim and Objectives

The aim of this project is to maximise the efficient use of the space available in Loxley House by:

- ✓ creating a customer hub on the ground floor of Loxley House to deliver front facing services of the Council and
- ✓ delivering smarter working strategies by linking in with existing IT programmes to enable more flexible ways of working for Council employees.

This project is driven by links to:

- ✓ the Council's Strategic Regeneration Programme through the facilitation of the anticipated disposal of two sites, Angel Row Library and Housing Aid and
- ✓ the Corporate Asset Management Plan, through the optimisation of use of existing operational buildings.

The objectives of this project are to:

- ✓ relocate the Revenue and Benefits team currently based at Angel Row to Loxley House in time for the planned redevelopment of the Angel Row Library building.
- ✓ relocate the Housing Aid team based at Parliament Street to allow for the sale of the current Housing Aid building for redevelopment.
- ✓ provide an improved service offer for citizens, through the creation of a customer hub, by locating the Revenue and Benefits team and Housing Aid team alongside other services, in a convenient location, which is easily accessible.
- ✓ introduce smarter ways of working in Loxley House to encourage more collaborative working amongst teams based in the building and to help release working spaces in the building to accommodate teams moving in the building.

2. Project costs

The approved budget for the project is £1.823m (capital).

The Scape Regional Framework has been used to appoint a contractor to carry out the reconfiguration works in Loxley House. For this value of the works, G.F.Tomlinson (GFT) is the contractor available from the framework. GFT carried out

Phase 1a of the Loxley Works and therefore, has knowledge of the building and some of the wider aspirations of the first phase.

	Approved costs	Updated costs
Provisional construction costs for ground floor provided by the Contractor (including prelims and fees), plus reconfiguration costs for floors 1-4.	£1,528,000	£1,497,000
Other construction costs (works at Southglade and Aspley Children Centre)	£ 22,000	£1,000
Revenue costs	£169,000	£266,000
SRB top slice (capital and revenue)	£53,000	£51,000
Contingency	£ 220,000	£177,000
Total	£1,992,000	£1,992,000

3. Dedicated Staff Time

The table below outlines the number of hours spent by members of staff supporting the project delivery from across different teams within the Council from project inception (November 2019) to completion (January 2020). This includes the dedicated time approved for the project.

	Hours
IT	641
FM	515
Change	3848
Project Management	7252

NB: Property, Finance and Design Services staff time costs are included within the approved costs of the project.

4. Additional Information

A. Project Scope:

The scope of the project includes the following:

1. creation of a customer hub on the ground floor of Loxley House with front facing services from Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), Housing Aid (HA) and Nottingham Revenue and Benefits (NRB) from Angel Row.
2. creating a new entrance to Loxley House on Trent Street to facilitate access for citizens using the Customer Hub.
3. introducing smarter working practices in Loxley House. This will enable more efficient ways of working and improve the working environment in the building.
4. decommissioning of existing Housing Aid building on Lower Parliament Street and Henry Whipple.
5. minor reconfiguration works at Southglade Children Centre and Aspley Children Centre.

This project will introduce smarter working practices in Loxley House only and not across the whole organisation. Targeted interventions will be used to encourage teams based in this building to adopt new ways of working.

Smarter working will be facilitated by:

- the existing IT programmes and infrastructure such as equipment upgrades, Skype and the provision of mobile phones subject to business needs
- encouraging teams to use their desk allocation more efficiently, with the aim of achieving an average of 7:10 desk ratio on average across the council.

The proposal to work smarter will:

- support staff to feel empowered to work where and when to optimise their performance
- improve collaboration between teams, facilitated by new work environment – both in the Customer Hub and Nottingham City Council Teams
- provide services/teams and individuals with the opportunity to focus on work being what they do not where they do it
- increased flexibility driving reduction in desk usage
- maximise benefit from existing IT offer including office 365, Skype, accessing emails from personal mobiles, remote access
- reinforce flexi desk approach to maximise efficiency of building, reduce desk numbers, create a more modern 'feel' and facilitate easy cleaning

In order to accommodate the DWP front office team, Housing Aid and NRB teams move to Loxley House on the ground floor to create a customer hub, a number of teams are being moved within the building.

B. Benefits

The benefits of this project provide a strong case for proceeding, meeting strategic objectives and aligning with other programmes of work that continue the ambitious approach taken by the Council to improve services and efficiency.

- ✓ Facilitating an investment and a regeneration opportunity for the Council through the disposal and redevelopment of Angel Row Library.
 - ✓ Facilitating a capital receipt and a contribution to the wider regeneration of the Sneinton Market area through the disposal of the current Housing Aid site.
 - ✓ Contribute to the objectives of the Corporate Asset Management Plan, including the optimisation of operational property and ensuring it is appropriate for the delivery of services.
 - ✓ Delivering improvements to citizens through the co-location of services within Loxley House.
 - ✓ Introducing smarter ways of working in order to be able to improve the working environment for staff at Loxley House.
 - ✓ Creating additional revenue through rental income from partners relocating to Loxley House.
 - ✓ Savings through reduction in operational costs associated with operating assets in poor condition, consolidating these services within Loxley House.
-

WRITTEN QUESTION ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ADULT CARE AND LOCAL TRANSPORT AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2019

Could the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Local Transport outline the target waiting time for a citizen to receive a visit from an Occupational Therapist; and how this compares with the average wait time achieved in practice?

Response from Councillor Adele Williams:

The Occupational Therapy (OT) service is central to the Adult Social Care Department's Better Lives Better Outcome Strategy which is supporting citizens to achieve better outcomes through improved independence. The service is also supporting delivery of the Department's Big Ticket savings. Demand for the service is increasing on an ongoing basis and citizens' needs are also becoming more complex. This experience is reflected nationally.

As a result, the service prioritises referrals according to risk. Our targets are all internally set targets, but are consistent with best practice. The target for people with an urgent need is for them to be contacted within 48 hours of referral and to have received a home visit within 5 working days. The service is achieving this target. Our target for people receiving a reablement service is for them to be allocated and assessed within 2 weeks. The service is meeting this target.

Our target for allocation of people with a routine need is 28 days. We are currently not meeting this target and the current waiting time for people with a routine need is 98 days.

The OT service also operates an early intervention service which provides assessment and provision of low level equipment for people with this level of need. The target for allocation is 4 weeks and the current waiting time is 5 weeks.

A benchmarking exercise indicated that our OT performance compares favourably with that of two close local authority neighbours. Data shared with us highlighted that the two other local authorities have urgent need targets of 20 working days and 28 days respectively and routine targets of 90 days. Neither local authority is meeting their routine targets with one operating an average waiting time of 170 days and the other of 180 days.

Our OT service currently has a vacancy rate of 40% that it is working hard to address; however, there are ongoing recruitment difficulties which the Head of Service is seeking to mitigate against through the establishment of apprenticeships and a full workforce review and development of an appropriate workforce strategy supported by HR.

Difficulties in recruiting sufficient OTs is a national problem and our regional neighbours are all experiencing similar problems.

WRITTEN QUESTION ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE, GROWTH AND THE CITY CENTRE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2019

Could the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Growth and the City Centre provide a breakdown of the number of empty business units in the City, split out on a year by year basis over the last five years?

Response from Councillor Sam Webster:

Below is an overview of empty business property using the annual National Non-Domestic Return 1 to Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government. A snapshot of empty properties across the whole city is taken for this in January.

Date	No. of empty properties	Total no. of properties
Jan 2015	1744	11284 (March 2015)
Jan 2016	1726	11219 (March 2016)
Jan 2017	2547	11508 (March 2017)
Jan 2018	2531	11991 (March 2018)
Jan 2019	2714	11959 (January 2019)
Nov 2019	2644	11940 (November 2019)

WRITTEN QUESTION ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITIES AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2019

Given that there is no longer a national measure of cleanliness between cities, could the Portfolio Holder for Communities confirm how the controlling group's pledge to make Nottingham the cleanest City, over the next Council term, will be measured?

Response from Councillor Rebecca Langton:

Thank you for your question Councillor Rule.

You are correct; there is no longer a national competition between authorities. The Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM) did for many years hold an annual award for the title of 'cleanest city' in categories of small, medium, and big cities. The award was based on a detailed submission of cleansing strategy and operations, followed by multiple and detailed unannounced visits to assess standards.

Nottingham won the 'cleanest big city' award in 2014 and was the overall 'gold award' winner for all categories.

However, whilst there is no national competition, we still hold an ambition and vision to be 'Britain's Cleanest Big City'. This ambition is based on a deep understanding of the importance of the public realm and cleansing standards on the quality of people's lives, the perception and impression of neighbourhoods and the city centre, and a recognition that getting the 'basic hygiene' factors right impacts on feelings of pride in the local area and tackling issues of antisocial behaviour.

We have continued to 'measure' our cleansing standards, and that involves some technical measures known as the 'cleansing index' and also volume measures like incidents of fly-tips, graffiti, and dog fouling and how quickly we respond to such reports and remove them. Just as important as these 'hard measures' are 'perception measures' and how citizens perceive the cleanliness of the local area and the city centre, and we continue to capture these measures via the annual CITIZENS survey and the RESPECT survey. Other things we have been doing:

National Bench Marking Standards			
1	National Awards	2019	2020
	APSE Best Service Awards Street Cleansing Street scene – Public Realm Awards	We were a finalist in the APSE Public Service Award for 2019.	We will be reapplying for the 2020 award and we are very hopeful of winning the prize.
2	APSE Street scene Bench Marking Network.	Work is currently being carried out to update our performance reports and participation in the national bench performance network. National performance report to be confirmed.	Maintain and improve family group position.
3	Keep Britain Tidy - Green Flag Awards - and Community Green Flag Awards There are 8 criteria for achieving this award including criteria for cleansing, graffiti and dog fouling.	There are currently 68 Green Flag Parks in Nottingham. This is the highest number in all the Core Cities.	We hope to retain all 68 and apply for a further 7 sites giving a total of 75.
4	Highways England: Independent Roadside Cleanliness Survey carried out by Keep Britain Tidy	In 2019 we achieved a Passing grade of B&B+ as set out in the code of practice on Litter and Refuse	Target for 2020 is to move to B+B+ standards
5	City Centre Purple Flag Award Standards to ensure the night-time economy is supported through a Safe and Clean City	Award up help and Achieved	Up hold the award.

	Centre. Association of Town and City Management.		
Local Performance Indicators			
	Fly Tipping Removal Target to reduce fly tipping	6828 incidents year to date	6828 - 5% reduction 6486
	Remove all graffiti Target to remove all within 48hrs	1467incidents year to date 1306 89%	Improve to 90%
	Remove dog fouling Number of incidents resolved	3729	3729 - 5% reduction 3542
Local Proactive Campaigns and Activity			
1	Deep cleans: <i>Basic definition of a deep clean</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter removal; • Hoeing out back lines; • Detritus removed from channels; • Scrubbing and jet washing pavements; • Steam cleaning the bins; • Painting street furniture, bollards and railings(as required 	We are committed to carrying out 120 deep cleans per annum However, we would normally carry out more in wards where the cleanliness index is lower.	Continue to work close to ward councillors to identify problem areas and carry out through weeks/ days of action.
2	Spring Cleans: Annual Community Clean up campaign coordinated by Keep Britain Tidy. The campaign also features as a major corporate publicity campaign.	We completed over 50 Community Litter picks between March – June 2019, with Nottingham City Council's Neighbourhood Development Officers taking the lead in organising the litter picks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clumber Street clean up: This is Nottingham's busiest city centre shopping street. On an average Saturday, over 2million people use the street. 50 litter picks in 20 wards • Over 1,000 people took part • 80 primary schools and 25,000 children 	Continue to promote and deliver a spring clean campaign in 2020

		took part	
3	Clean Champions Our Clean Champions make a positive difference in our city by carrying out litter picks, reporting issues in the neighbourhood, supporting local services e.g. street scene colleagues	We currently have a cohort of approximately 500 clean champions. We carried out over 50 events as part of the spring clean programme and many clean champions continue to clean up their local areas. 'Thank you' event was carried out at the Council House in July.	Carry out a promotional campaign to attract more clean champions. Host a 'Thank You' event. Continue to support throughout the year.
4	City Centre and City Wide Bin Replacement	We currently have the Big Belly Solar Compacting bins in the City Centre. Some of these have come to the end of their natural life and as such need replacing. We have scheduled to replace the 170 bins in two batches. We have identified the first 85 bins to be replaced. This will give a refreshed and energised look to our City Centre. Some of the Good Quality Big Belly Bins will be relocated within the neighbourhoods.	Second year of the bin replacement programme will replace a further 40-50 bins

Looking ahead, we are now at the forefront of leading a new measure of 'cleanliness and quality of the public realm' by embracing the APSE 'LAMS' system (which is a Land Audit Management System). We are one of the big city pilots and are currently working with APSE and training our teams to implement this.

The system is based on a series of surveys of randomly selected locations. All areas maintained are allocated a zone type:

- Zone 1 – High amenity
- Zone 2 – General amenity
- Zone 3 – Low maintenance

Areas are graded and awarded points:

3

- Grade A – 3 points
- Grade B – 2 points (acceptable standard)
- Grade C – 1 point
- Grade D – 0 points

Grading is based on a visual inspection with full photographic guidance provided and inspectors simply indicate the grade that each transect is assessed at. This data is

inputted into a simple spreadsheet that allocates points and calculates the overall score.

The system is designed so that it has a low-resource intensity and inspections can be conducted by existing staff such as team leaders. This system is used to measure the levels of flyposting, litter, flytipping, dog fouling, bin cleanliness, bin structure, bins overflowing and hard surface weeds.

We will engage in benchmarking with other cities who engage in LAMS, and will seek to ensure we remain 'Britain's Cleanest Big City'.

As you can see we have a very comprehensive performance framework for monitoring all of our progress towards delivering the Cleanest Big City Corporate Objective. We believe that the sum of all the activities above remains consistently better than other larger cities and we remain confident that we will be able to fully justify our claim to the Cleanest Big City Title.

WQ5

WRITTEN QUESTION ASKED BY COUNCILLOR MARIA WATSON OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE, GROWTH AND THE CITY CENTRE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2019

Could the Portfolio Holder confirm the estimated amount of interest that the Council is set to earn from the reported recent loan to Robin Hood Energy, should it be paid back in full as reportedly expected by the end of the financial year?

The response is exempt from publication under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it contains information relating to the financial position of the Council (or another business) and, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because disclosure of the information could prejudice ongoing negotiations.

WQ6

WRITTEN QUESTION ASKED BY COUNCILLOR KIRSTY JONES OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING, PLANNING AND HERITAGE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2019

Could the Portfolio Holder confirm how many requests for homelessness assistance have been made to the Council, compared to the same point last year?

Response from Councillor Linda Woodings:

From 01/07/2018 to 15/11/2018 there were 1602 approaches to Housing Aid from different households (families and singles) who were homeless or at risk of homelessness. From 01/07/2019 to 15/11/2019 there were 2022 approaches (a 26.2% increase).

WQ7

WRITTEN QUESTION ASKED BY COUNCILLOR KIRSTY JONES OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING, PLANNING AND HERITAGE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2019

Could the Portfolio Holder confirm, according to council figures, how many incidents of rough sleeping have been recorded across the city, compared to the same point last year?

Response from Councillor Linda Woodings:

	Number of incidents of rough sleeping found on November monthly count	Number of individuals found rough sleeping Jan-Nov
2018	34	1275
2019	30	1489

WQ8

WRITTEN QUESTION ASKED BY COUNCILLOR KEVIN CLARKE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ADULT CARE AND LOCAL TRANSPORT AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2019

Could the Portfolio Holder explain why Chippenham Road in Bestwood is yet to be resurfaced, despite resurfacing works having been scheduled to take place between March and October of this year, and provide a new time frame for this work?

Response from Councillor Adele Williams:

I can confirm no works are planned for Chippenham Road this year, 2019. Unfortunately, Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) legal orders were put up prematurely this year in error, which has caused some confusion. This notice was promptly taken down. I am pleased to confirm that Chippenham Road is included in the planned preventative programme for 2020/21. In the meantime, I will ensure that the local Highway Safety Inspector will continue to inspect and address any safety defects.
