

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Nottingham,

on Monday 9 December 2013 at 2.00 pm

ATTENDANCES

| ✓ Councillor Bryan | Lord Mayor |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| ✓ Councillor Ali | ✓ Councillor Longford |
| ✓ Councillor Arnold | ✓ Councillor McCulloch |
| ✓ Councillor Aslam | ✓ Councillor McDonald |
| ✓ Councillor Ball | ✓ Councillor Malcolm |
| ✓ Councillor Battlemuch | ✓ Councillor Mellen |
| ✓ Councillor Campbell | ✓ Councillor Molife |
| ✓ Councillor Chapman | ✓ Councillor Morley |
| ✓ Councillor Choudhry | ✓ Councillor Morris |
| ✓ Councillor Clark | ✓ Councillor Neal |
| ✓ Councillor Collins | Councillor Norris |
| ✓ Councillor Culley | ✓ Councillor Ottewell |
| ✓ Councillor Dewinton | ✓ Councillor Packer |
| ✓ Councillor Edwards | ✓ Councillor Parbutt |
| ✓ Councillor Gibson | ✓ Councillor Peach |
| ✓ Councillor Grocock | Councillor Piper |
| ✓ Councillor Hartshorne | ✓ Councillor Saghir |
| ✓ Councillor Healy | ✓ Councillor D Smith |
| Councillor Heaton | ✓ Councillor W Smith |
| ✓ Councillor Ibrahim | ✓ Councillor Spencer |
| Councillor Jeffery | ✓ Councillor Steel |
| ✓ Councillor Jenkins | ✓ Councillor Trimble |
| ✓ Councillor Johnson | ✓ Councillor Unczur |
| ✓ Councillor Jones | ✓ Councillor Urquhart |
| ✓ Councillor G Khan | Councillor Watson |
| ✓ Councillor N Khan | ✓ Councillor Webster |
| ✓ Councillor Klein | Councillor Wildgust |
| ✓ Councillor Liversidge | ✓ Councillor Wood |

66 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Campbell, Heaton, Norris, Piper and Watson.

67 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

68 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM CITIZENS

Questions from citizens

Nottingham City Children and Young Persons' Plan

The following question was asked by Mr Kasparinskis to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services:

In light of current budget cuts affecting Children and Families teams please could the Council explain how it is meeting principle three of its commitment in the Nottingham City Children And Young Persons' Plan and its aspiration to provide mainstream services "that can be used by children who previously may have needed specialist services e.g. children with disabilities," in relation to the area of access to Youth Clubs and outreach projects for young people?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank Mr Kasparinskis for his question. As the question recognises it is difficult to exaggerate the magnitude of the changes in the landscape since the Children and Young Persons' Plan was launched in 2010. We have faced, as a Council and as part of the Children's Partnership, unprecedented challenges in the intervening years, including huge cuts in the Council's budget as a result of continuous reductions in government funding for Nottingham. For these reasons, we reviewed and revised the Plan in 2011 to take account of these new realities. I am proud to say, however, that we retained the commitment to develop services to be used by children who previously required specialist services.

In the particular case of children with disabilities as is asked in the question, we have made sure that the services commissioned through the 'Aiming High' programme have been maintained despite the loss of Government funding.

So, all children and young people with disabilities are entitled to access Council youth and play sessions for a minimum of 2 hours per week, with inclusion support where it is needed. This provides support for children with disabilities to attend mainstream play, youth and leisure sessions and ensures that they have the same opportunities to participate in positive activities as their peers. In fact, we have increased the number, in 2012-13, 111 young people were supported in this way compared to just 91 in 2010-11.

As part of our Short Breaks programme, the Link Work scheme offers community-based one to one support to enable children with more severe disabilities to access community activities in their area. With partners we have maintained a range of dedicated provision for children and young people with disabilities, including Jigsaw for children with autism in

Sneinton, New Ventures in the Meadows, the Deaf Youth Club in Hyson Green and the City Hospital Youth Club for young people who are spending some time, long or short, in hospital.

Crocus Fields in the Meadows provides residential short breaks that give opportunities for children and young people to access play and youth provision wherever possible, and provides outreach services for young people with learning difficulties and/or physical disabilities to help them and their families to access services in their own communities.

Finally, we have invested in capital projects across the city to improve access for children with disabilities to mainstream services. These have included the adventure playgrounds and play centres, particularly Balloon Woods in Bilborough and 'The Ridge' in Bestwood, the NGY Youth Centre in the city centre and Green Lane Youth Centre in Clifton where the second stage of its development starts next year.

Of course, we don't only have to make sure that resources are available, we also need to make sure that families can find them. We have maintained our Family Information Service where many councils have been cutting theirs' back, to provide easy access to information about services, both online and by telephone. Most recently, we have opened our new Children and Families Direct Service. This provides a single point of access to all children and families services, where people are more likely to be able to find what they need at the first try.

As we move forward from the current plan which ends in 2014 and consider as a Children's Partnership what comes next, I believe that we can look back with some pride on how we have fulfilled the commitment we made in relation to disabled children, in the most challenging of circumstances.

Petitions from Councillors on behalf of citizens

No petitions from citizens were received.

69 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2013, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Lord Mayor.

70 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chief Executive reported the following communications:

City Council by-elections

First of all I would like to welcome Councillors Anne Peach and Neghat Nawaz Khan, the newly elected Labour councillors for Radford and Park and Dales wards following by-elections held on Thursday 7 November.

Sport England Funding

On the 20 November 2013 Phil Smith, Director of Sport for Sport England, came to Nottingham to present the City with 2 cheques. The first was for £1.941million following the successful approval of the Council's Iconic Bid to develop Harvey Hadden. This funding will

add an outdoor cycle track, squash courts, outdoor changing as well as an 8th lane on the athletics track all added to the existing plans for the 50 metre pool.

The second award was for 3 years' funding of a new project aimed at getting local communities more physically active. This project is in partnership with Nottingham City Homes and will be worth nearly half a million pounds investment over the 3 year period.

Ray Gosling

Former BBC broadcaster and gay rights activist Ray Gosling passed away on 19 November 2013. He moved to Nottingham in his twenties and became deeply attached to the city whilst becoming a familiar face on national television. Later in life, Mr Gosling became co-chairman of the St Ann's Tenants' and Residents' Association.

Nelson Mandela

It is with great sadness that I formally report to Council the death of Nelson Mandela last Thursday at the age of 95, a truly inspirational political leader whose struggle for racial equality in South Africa made him not only an icon in his own country but a symbol for freedom and justice worldwide. Renowned as a remarkable statesman who, having spent 27 years in jail, became South Africa's first black president in 1994, replacing the enforced apartheid regime.

He was a unifier of people playing a leading role in the drive for peace, without bitterness over his own harsh treatment. A popular man whose dignity and amazing life story had a truly global appeal, demonstrating that human beings and countries can change for the better. The flags on all Council House properties have been lowered to half mast as a mark of respect.

The Council stood in silent tribute to their memory.

71 QUESTIONS

Council Tax support scheme

Councillor Ottewell asked the following question of the Deputy Leader:

Does the Deputy Leader believe that urban areas are being unfairly treated in the Council Tax support system?

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank Councillor Ottewell for his question. I have a couple of points to make, firstly, the Government has this year withdrawn a grant which had enabled us last year to fix the charge to those on benefits to 8% while other authorities were charging 20% in urban areas. Secondly, the Government has also reduced the amount of money, for the second year running, to pay for Council Tax benefits, next year by £3.8 million. That brings the total gap to £6.1 million, which is £79 on Council Tax. That is the level of withdrawn grant for those on benefits.

The Government has made by definition, no provision either for inflation or additional demand. Future years will see substantial further cuts and in 2015-16 we are expecting a

further £3.3 million bringing the total gap to £9.4 million since the beginning of the scheme and that is well over £100 per person on their Council Tax. The pressures will add to homelessness, it will add to repossessions, it will add to court costs and other social costs which may well outweigh any savings.

The consequence of this is twofold. First, the Government allows us to offset some cost by charging Council Tax for empty properties but in main Midlands and northern urban areas the number of empty properties is insufficient to cover the losses because of the number of people claiming benefit. Not so in rural areas, not so in suburban areas and not so on the whole in the south outside London. So you have the absurdity of minimal charges for the poor in places like Stevenage or no charge in Gedling, yet heavy charges in Sheffield, Liverpool, Leeds and Nottingham.

The second point is the total burden of Council Tax support is being shifted from the Government to the Council Tax payer in a way which means in the poorer areas, the poorer the area is the more you have to pay. That burden is then absorbed by the Council Tax payer or shifted to those on benefits. It is a double jeopardy for the poor areas. An example, in Hackney, the burden on the Council budget is 3.9%, 3.7% in Liverpool and 3.1% in Nottingham. Contrast this with 0.61% in Wokingham, 0.71% in Surrey Heath and 0.72% in Mole Valley, well I'm sure the moles are very happy but I'm not sure the citizens of Nottingham are as happy. It is a chaotic, arbitrary and unfair system where the urban poor are paying for the financial crisis and the burden of cost is being transferred to the poorest areas and the Council Tax payers. This is bad, if not worse than the bedroom tax and as with the bedroom tax I am confident it will be repealed by a future Labour government.

Children arriving at school hungry in Nottingham

Councillor Morris asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services:

Could the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services tell Council what is being done to address the issues of children arriving at school hungry in Nottingham?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and I'd like to thank Councillor Morris for her question. We know several things about this. We know that children who go to school hungry are less likely to learn effectively. We know that times are hard for our families, many of whom are feeling the impact of welfare reform and struggling to put food on the table.

We know that food banks in greater Nottingham are being overwhelmed with demand. We know that the most recent data shows that in Nottingham the percentage of children living in households dependent on out-of-work benefits is 33.8%, that is 21,000 children. Yesterday, with the Joseph Rowntree report, we learned that for the first time, the majority of people who are classed as being in poverty are not on those benefits but are actually in work. The much heralded economic recovery is yet to be felt by many Nottingham families where the cost of living continues to increase faster than income.

Nottingham local authority schools and our partners in the business community have stepped up to the mark to ensure that there are opportunities for children from our most deprived communities to access breakfast clubs as well as free milk and the free fruit introduced by the Labour government in our schools. In the city, we have over 60 free or

low-cost breakfast clubs, primarily run by our schools, for their pupils. Parents can access information about what's available to them via the Council's Families Information Service or they can contact their school who will be able to advise what is available.

To support this, our strategic partnership, One Nottingham has been working with Business in the Community for a number of years to support their 'Cares for Kids' charity, this is a breakfast club initiative and has brought support in forty four schools for up to 35 children per school – over 1,000 in total. It gives a small grant every term to help schools with the cost of the food. We know that up to 50% of school breakfast clubs would not be sustainable without the support of 'Cares for Kids'.

This initiative has been widely acknowledged as making a real difference to the ability for children to concentrate and learn effectively. There is significant evidence through independent research and the testimonies of the teachers that this initiative is effective in support children from low income households.

We recently had some feedback to 'Cares for Kids' where I sit on the Board and the Head Teacher of Milford Academy said:

"The breakfast club is a vital part of our Academy and enables some of our children to begin the day in the best possible way by ensuring breakfast is eaten thus making our children more receptive to learning."

Djanogly Northgate Academy said:

"Running a breakfast club has proved a real benefit to our families and fits in with our ethos to put ourselves at the heart of our community supporting the whole family."

Dovecote Primary in Clifton said:

"Breakfast club helps the children settle quicker in the mornings. They leave with a smile in their faces and a health start to the day."

At Woodlands School in Leen Valley ward the Head Teacher said:

"Pupils are able to access food where they may have had none previously. Pupils' concentration is better and can be calmed significantly just by having something to eat at the start of the day."

I want to pay credit to business in the community for their consistent support for this initiative and to Nottingham businesses, particularly Thomson Reuters, E.ON, Siemens Metering, GalaCoral, Premier Foods and Boots for their financial and 'in kind' support for the charity.

Changes to Energy Companies Obligation

Councillor N Khan asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Energy and Sustainability:

Could the Portfolio Holder for Energy and Sustainability tell Council how the Government's changes to Energy Companies' Obligations will affect Nottingham, and most specifically

whether it will harm projects such as the solid wall insulation currently taking place in Clifton?

Councillor Clark replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and I thank Councillor Khan for her question. Last week, significant announcements were made about the future of measures that reduce energy consumption. These announcements were made in "The Sun on Sunday" which is a publication that I have never bought. Subsequent brief announcements were made in Parliament that did not make it clear whether there is a proposed change in legislation, and, therefore, whether the announcement should have first been made to Parliament.

The coalition Government has clearly changed direction and concluded that saving everybody something off their bills whilst not reducing energy consumption is preferable to a large programme of insulation that saves on bills and reduces consumption. The main impact of the announced changes for Nottingham's planned projects is that energy companies will now be allowed to deliver loft and cavity wall insulation under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Obligation (CERO). Previously this programme was aimed at solid wall insulation and hard to treat cavities.

These programmes are measured in terms of carbon savings rather than the financial amounts invested. Based on the average carbon savings at Clifton around 600,000 properties nationally would need to have been insulated over a two year period for the energy companies to meet their obligation. With the changes announced lofts and cavities can be used to reach this target and as these are cheaper to deliver, the number of solid wall properties targeted will reduce significantly.

Nottingham has already insulated a large proportion of lofts and cavities across both social and private sector properties, which means we may be less attractive in terms of funding. Over the next 5 years we had planned to insulate all 7,000 solid wall homes in our ownership and our expectations within the private sector was between 4,000 and 6,000 properties by 2015 and probably a similar number in the next period, meaning that Nottingham would be looking for funding for up to 20,000 solid wall properties. This will now be vastly reduced.

The Clifton scheme involves external wall insulation to over 5,000 homes. The funding is coming from British Gas, who has the largest ECO obligation at 33%. If the announcements last week result in a change in the law, British Gas could then renegotiate their offer to Nottingham. This would seriously undermine the scheme, resulting in a funding shortfall for social housing stock and a fundamental change to the private sector offer.

Ofsted inspections

Councillor Morley asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services:

Would the Portfolio Holder prefer an inspection regime for schools that turned a blind eye to Nottingham constantly appearing at the bottom of GCSE league tables, or does he think that OFSTED inspections, while often painful in the short term, are vital in ensuring our children are receiving the best education and start in life as possible?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Morley for providing me with the opportunity to be clear that in the fifteen years since the City Council resumed responsibility for education in the city we have overseen an era of continuous improvement in terms of examination results, the growth of partnerships and collaboration between schools, the physical condition of our school buildings and facilities and a concerted focus on reducing the gap in attainment for those most disadvantaged pupils.

Although we still have much to do, there is much to celebrate and we take every opportunity we can in terms of recognising both individual achievements – such as I was privileged to do at the Nottingham Post Student Awards event last month – and collective city wide achievement such as this summer when we marked and celebrated another year of improvement in every measure, but this year particularly at Key Stage 2.

Given that we have prioritised and invested as a Council over the last 15 years to ensure that continuous improvement in education is at the heart of our policy and practice I find it curious that Councillor Morley would suggest that I would have any kind of preference for a regime that “turns a blind eye” to poor performance. Just because I haven’t been talking in the media about reports that have not yet been published, before I have had a chance to study them, doesn’t mean that I am not concerned about what Ofsted are saying and what the consequences of their recent visits are. I believe that an inspection regime that shines a light on areas for improvement in our schools is welcome. We need to know what to do to improve the offer to Nottingham families and Ofsted is part of the process of achieving further improvement. We need to improve further so that our young people can leave school with the qualifications and skills necessary for them to compete in what is a very difficult job market at the moment. Our absolute and comparative educational performances need to improve further.

I look forward to working alongside Ofsted to ensure that all Nottingham schools and academies are able to provide the best possible opportunities for all children and young people in Nottingham.

Outstanding providers and less well performing schools

Councillor Morley asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services:

What is the authority doing to ensure that lessons learned from outstanding providers locally are shared in our less well performing schools?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and thank you Councillor Morley for this question. Schools are required to identify their improvement needs through self-evaluation and identify where to access appropriate support and challenge through a series of strategic and professional partnerships. Strong providers say they learn as much from supporting the other schools they support as they provide as they consider it to be a mutually beneficial arrangement. The Local Authority School Improvement strategy dovetails with these arrangements, often in a brokerage capacity. A brokerage capacity because the resources we used to have to do this job have gone, they have been taken away by this Government who still expects us to be able to do the job, and so the work we have to do is about putting schools together and making sure that excellent schools support other excellent schools. This works in many

ways but not in every capacity. This approach was supported in outcomes from an HMI “Supporting Schools Improvement” Good Practice visit in January this year.

So, effective strategies include: Teaching School Alliances, the National College of Teaching and Leadership recognises the Local Authority as one of the highest and most successful deploying authorities in the East Midlands, National Leaders of Educational, outstanding head teachers from outstanding schools supporting others, Local Leaders of Education which are good head teachers from good schools who work in schools to build leadership capacity. Specialist Leaders of Education, outstanding practitioners and middle leaders who work in schools to build capacity particularly in teaching and learning and Executive Head Teachers who work with schools in Ofsted categories where there are weaknesses in Leadership and Management.

There is also governance to support leadership and management effectiveness in the classroom, which has impact on pupil achievement. National Leaders of Governance who work with schools in Ofsted categories or as a preventative measure to strengthen leadership capacity for the Chair of Governors.

There is also advice on the recruitment and implementation of Interim Executive Boards for schools in Ofsted categories and brokering additional governors in specific categories.

There is also support for teaching and learning through teaching alliances, with schools working together to support good teacher and classroom practice, outstanding Teacher and Improving Teacher Programmes, Local school/academy based partnerships, clusters, learning networks, Challenge Partners and peer coaching models to develop joint practice and effective school evaluation, Nottingham Learning Trust service level agreement for professional development with the Local Authority Teaching and Learning Specialists in Early Years, Primary, Vulnerable Groups and Inclusive Learning. The LA is the Appropriate Body for schools and academies for NQT induction and quality assurance and monitoring.

So, there is much achieved, even with the reduced resources that we have; we have a number of outstanding providers in our city and we are making the most of those.

Leadership of Nottingham schools

Councillor Morley asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services:

Can the Portfolio Holder assure the Council that we are doing everything we can to attract the calibre of head teacher required to provide the leadership we need to bring our schools up to standard, and that he agrees with me that, particularly due to the challenges that Nottingham face due to high levels of deprivation, even schools rated as satisfactory are not good enough for the children of Nottingham?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank Councillor Morley for her question. I think it is important to remind Councillor Morley that the responsibility for appointing head teachers rests directly with the governing body or academy trust of a school or academy. Having said that, I am keen to ensure that the Council does all it can to influence schools and academies to ensure that they develop, attract and retain the highest quality of school leaders. It is also the case that we can point to significant success in doing so.

Nottingham currently has a large cohort of Head Teachers who are either Local or National Leaders of Education – a title that is conferred through moderated assessment from the National College of School Leadership, based right here in Nottingham. Our group of National and Local School leaders is proportionally larger than many of our East Midlands neighbours and similar sized authorities around the country. This cohort is not only modelling excellence in their own schools, they act a resource across the city in terms of supporting and developing the skills of existing head teachers and emerging school leaders.

Using these leaders, we have developed a number of successful Executive Headship arrangements where a head is a leader of more than one school. This ensures the excellence is shared amongst a pair or more schools whilst the Head of School who operates underneath the Executive Head in a learning capacity whilst there is someone else taking overall responsibility. So, for example, at Hadyn School in Sherwood ward which was recently rated as “Outstanding”, the heads from that school are working with Claremont School in Berridge ward and Cantrell School in Bulwell Forest. There is an ability there, at those schools that have been proven recently under the hard test that the new Ofsted framework is, to be outstanding leaders, are spreading that work in schools that in recent past have not done so well. If we look at Heathfield Primary School in Basford ward, the head there is not only head of Heathfield Primary but is also head of William Booth School in my ward where they had a particularly bad Ofsted two years ago bringing about improvement ratified by HMI that the school is going in the right direction.

We look at Sneinton Church of England School on the border of St Ann’s and Dales wards, an outstanding school which leads the Outstanding Teaching Alliance and also the Head Teacher there working at Bulwell St Mary’s in the heart of Bulwell and in South Wilford school in Clifton North to spread good practice. We’ve got a good record of doing this effective practice, what we have to make sure is that those heads are looked after and not stretched too far so that actually their good practice can continue.

As a Council we have developed and maintained strong links with the Nottingham based National College for School Leadership – having this facility on our doorstep has been a real benefit in terms of easy access to the best research, good practice, training and development opportunities for our school leaders. The Chief Executive of the College, Charlie Taylor, will be a key note speaker at the North of England Education conference held here in Nottingham in the New Year.

The retained small school improvement service, part of Children’s Services, provides a free expert advice and support for primary schools in their recruitment process and we encourage through our governor support to ensure that Governing Bodies maintain the determination to appoint only the strongest candidate. If the right candidate is not available interim support for the school can and has been brokered by the Local Authority.

It is also worth noting that the salary ranges offered in the city are attractive in comparison to our immediate neighbouring authority – which demonstrates the determination of our schools to attract the best candidates. In terms of Councillor Morley’s second question, the “satisfactory” rating no longer used of Ofsted – it has been replaced by the term “Requires Improvement”. I remain committed to seeing us increase the number of city schools and academies that are rated “good” or “outstanding”. That proportion currently stands at 72% of city schools. The majority of our children attend good or outstanding schools and our job is not done until they all do.

School consultants

Councillor Culley asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services:

Does the Portfolio Holder still believe that nearly £100,000 spent over the last two years on consultants employed to keep schools out of special measures was the best use of this money in terms of outcomes for Nottingham Children?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you Lord Mayor and can I thank Councillor Morley for her question. In responding I think it is important that Council is reminded that there has been a sea change in the functions and responsibilities of Local Authorities in relation to school improvement since 2010. Much of the traditional role that saw the Local Authorities employ full time advisors has transferred directly to schools and the types of measures described in my response to Council question 6 has largely replaced them.

Councillor Culley, your Government has slashed the money available to the Council for schools for improvement. One of the first things Mr Gove did when becoming Secretary of State, just after he had cut the 'Building Schools for the Future' investment in Nottingham school buildings, was to cancel the National Strategies which provided expertise for the Council in subject specialisation at secondary level and removed, at a stroke, a whole team of experts advising our schools. Our current primary advisory team of 5 people is only sustained on the basis of 80% plus their costs being met through selling their expertise to schools in Nottingham and beyond.

Despite destroying our tools to fulfil the task, under section 72 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the Local Authority does retain statutory powers of intervention for schools that are causing concern in terms of their performance. As such, it needs to have sufficient capacity to act effectively should a school fall in special measures. The approach that was adopted over the previous two years was to secure the highest quality expertise we could do to avoiding schools falling into an Ofsted "inadequate category" and also lead on supporting those schools who had been placed in this category to improve. Rather than employing a permanent employee into a Head a Service tier role to fulfil this function – the decision was made to adopt a more flexible option of securing the services of an experienced former Head Teacher of a number of schools and School Improvement Advisor – who could work in an targeted and focussed way without any of the additional responsibilities that are generally incumbent on senior managers in the Local Authority. I stress this Consultant was employed instead of, not in addition to, a permanent employee and at a rate that was cheaper than employing someone full time.

In terms of his success I would suggest that he did indeed provide value for money. Two of the five primary schools in an inadequate category he worked with have moved out of the category – the remaining three are making strong progress and I am confident will move out of the category in due course. However, just as important he also worked alongside the small permanent primary improvement team to strengthen their processes in early identification and prevention of problems. Primary schools have shown a significant improvement in standards over the past 3 years so that this year's results show that Nottingham is only 2% points behind the National Average at numbers of children achieving Level 4 at the end of primary schools and that we have moved up to 117th place in the National League Tables at this measure. This is progress in the right direction and although

we are not complacent, we recognise the improvement that schools have made. The lessons we have learned in the primary sector are important as we consider the challenges facing our schools and academies currently in the secondary sector.

72 GENERAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The report of the Leader, as set out on pages 208 to 209 of the agenda, was submitted.

RESOLVED that, on the motion of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Chapman, the constitutional amendments as set out in Appendix 1, to the report be agreed and noted as appropriate.

73 DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES

The report of the Leader, as set out on pages 210 to 216 of the agenda, was submitted.

RESOLVED that, on the motion of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Chapman, the urgent decisions taken be noted.

74 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAM WASTE CORE STRATEGY

The report of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation, as set out on pages 217 to 220 of the agenda, was submitted.

RESOLVED that, on the motion of Councillor Urquhart, seconded by Councillor Clark:

- (1) the adoption of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy be approved;**
- (2) authority be given to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation to make any final minor changes required to correct typographical or other errors, in consultation with the Planning Policy Manager.**

75 REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The report of the Chair of the Licensing Committee, as set out on pages 221 to 224 of the agenda, was submitted.

RESOLVED that, on the motion of Councillor Grocock, seconded by Councillor D Smith, the Statement of Licensing Policy take effect from 7 January 2014.

76 CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013/14

RESOLVED that the following changes to committee memberships, be noted:

- (1) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Sally Longford replaced by Councillor Neghat Khan and Councillor Anne Peach appointed to a vacant position on the Committee;**
- (2) City Centre Forum – Councillor Anne Peach appointed to a vacant position on the Forum;**

- (3) Trusts and Charities Committee – Councillor Anne Peach appointed to a vacant position on the Committee.**

The meeting concluded at 15.34 pm