

# Minutes



meeting	Chief Executive's and Resources Departmental Briefing
date	15 July 2008

## Present:

Councillor David Kirkham (L)  
Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts (C)  
Councillor Reg Adair (C)  
Councillor Brian Wombwell (LibDem)  
Councillor John Clarke (L)  
Councillor John Hemsall (C)  
Councillor Peter Barnes (L)  
Councillor Jim Creamer (L)  
Councillor John Cottey (C)  
Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones (L)

### Chief Executive's Department

Mick Burrows  
Sarah Thurlby  
David Ellis  
Julie Biddle

### Resources

Alan Sumby  
Richard Lawson

## 1. Welcome and Introduction

Councillor David Kirkham welcomed everyone to the Chief Executive's and Resources, Departmental Briefing.

## 2. Apologies

Apologies from Councillor John Stocks, Arthur Deakin, Liz Lesquereux

## 3. Notes of meeting held on 1 May 2008

Agreed

## 4. Insurance and Risk Management

Alan introduced the item and provided an overview of the service, structure and explanation of roles and responsibilities of the team. The team has two distinct areas of work:

Risk Management seeks to identify events that could occur, which would put colleagues and citizens at risk with a budget of £350,000.

Insurance section provides insurance for injury, fire and theft and pays approximately £1 million in insurance fees.

Richard Lawson gave a more detailed presentation of the work undertaken by the team. The work is supported by 3 Senior Officer groups from across the Authority.

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts asked if Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) was in a position to provide support to community groups who currently receive grants from NCC, but do not receive financial support with insurance premiums. Richard stated that NCC would have to carefully consider providing professional advice to external organisations, as this may have legal implications. However, Richard gave a commitment to explore alternative options.

Councillor Peter Barnes asked if Voluntary Aided schools were able to access NCC insurance. Richard explained it is compulsory for all schools to have adequate insurance cover, and the vast majority of schools in Nottinghamshire remain under the NCC scheme.

A question was asked with regard to public liability insurance cover for highways. Richard confirmed the current amount is £1 million.

Councillor David Kirkham thanked Alan Sumby and Richard Lawson for their informative presentation.

## **5. Chief Executive's Improvement Plan**

Mick Burrows gave a presentation on better outcomes for local people and places. Mick explained how the Improvement Plan will provide improved outcomes for citizens and communities of Nottinghamshire. Mick explained the importance of the role of Elected Members as Community Leaders, to provide support to local communities.

Recent indications from inspections confirm NCC has been slow to improve performance. Partner confidence is improving and further work is required to further strengthen links with East Midlands Development Agency (emda), Government of the East Midlands (GoEM), CLG and CCN.

The Improvement Plan will focus on Strategic Priorities, Corporate Priorities, Community Strategy, Regional Improvement Efficiency Partnership (RIEP) and the Local Area Agreement. Feedback and analysis from recent inspections will also be included in future proposals.

Mick provided an update on the recruitment process for Strategic and Service Director posts. The posts will be advertised in September 2008.

Councillor Peter Barnes asked when appointed Directors would take up their new posts. Mick confirmed January/February 2009.

Councillor John Clarke asked if there would be additional costs associated with the recruitment process. Mick stated there would be minimal additional recruitment costs, as the process would be undertaken mostly in house.

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts stated a delegated decision report had been logged to agree early retirement for an employee, with an additional payment of £4,000. Councillor Cutts asked for the practice to cease.

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts raised concern with regard to the consultation process to create and adopt NCC policies. It was generally acknowledged NCC policies are regularly reviewed, transparent and used to support Elected Members in their work. Councillor Barnes commented on the consistent and good support he receives from Officers, with regard to a wide range of policy issues.

Councillor David Kirkham thanked Mick Burrows for sharing his proposals on the Improvement Plan.

Councillor David Kirkham thanked colleagues for attending and closed the meeting.

If you want a copy of the presentation, please contact Erica Fletcher on 0115 977 2338