



Nottinghamshire County Council

Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 30 March 2023 (10.30 am – 5.27 pm)

Membership

COUNCILLORS

Roger Jackson (Chairman)

John Ogle (Vice-Chairman)

Reg Adair
Mike Adams
Pauline Allan
Sinead Anderson - apologies
Callum Bailey
Matt Barney
Chris Barnfather
Ben Bradley MP
Richard Butler
Anne Callaghan BEM
André Camilleri
Scott Carlton
Steve Carr
John Clarke MBE
Neil Clarke MBE
Robert Corden
John Cottee
Jim Creamer
Debbie Darby
Sam Deakin
Dr John Doddy
Bethan Eddy
Boyd Elliott
Sybil Fielding
Kate Foale
Stephen Garner - apologies
Glynn Gilfoyle
Keith Girling
Penny Gowland
Errol Henry JP
Paul Henshaw
Tom Hollis

Mike Introna
Richard Jackson
Eric Kerry
Bruce Laughton
Johnno Lee
David Martin
John 'Maggie' McGrath
Andy Meakin
Nigel Moxon
Kane Oliver - apologies
Philip Owen
Michael Payne
Sheila Place - apologies
Mike Pringle
Francis Purdue-Horan
Mike Quigley MBE
Mrs Sue Saddington
Dave Shaw
Helen-Ann Smith
Sam Smith
Tom Smith
Tracey Taylor
Nigel Turner
Roger Upton
Lee Waters
Michelle Welsh
Gordon Wheeler
Jonathan Wheeler
Elizabeth Williamson - apologies
John Wilmott
Jason Zadrozny

HONORARY ALDERMEN

Terence Butler
John Carter
Kay Cutts MBE

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Adrian Smith | (Chief Executive) |
| Marjorie Toward | (Chief Executives) |
| Sara Allmond | (Chief Executives) |
| Sarah Ashton | (Chief Executives) |
| Carl Bilbey | (Chief Executives) |
| Isobel Fleming | (Chief Executives) |
| Hannah Gemmill | (Chief Executives) |
| David Hennigan | (Chief Executives) |
| James McDonnell | (Chief Executives) |
| Phil Rostance | (Chief Executives) |
| Nigel Stevenson | (Chief Executives) |
| Phil Smith | (Chief Executives) |
| Jonathan Gribbin | (Adult Social Care and Health) |
| Melanie Williams | (Adult Social Care and Health) |
| Colin Pettigrew | (Children and Families) |
| Derek Higton | (Place) |

OPENING PRAYER

Upon the Council, convening, prayers were led by the Chairman.

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED: 2023/003

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 February 2023 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

- Councillor Sinead Anderson (medical/illness)
- Councillor Stephen Garner (medical/illness)
- Councillor Kane Oliver (other reasons)
- Councillor Sheila Place (medical/illness)
- Councillor Elizabeth Williamson (medical/illness)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

None

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

The Chairman updated Members on the business he and the Vice-Chairman had carried out since the last meeting, including attending many different events and dinners over the previous few weeks. A highlight was meeting the new Duke of Edinburgh at Portland Training College where he opened some new facilities. The Chairman also joined the High Sheriff of Nottingham in visiting the American Ambassador's residence in London, to plant saplings grown from the Major Oak tree in Sherwood Forest and the original Bramley Apple tree in Southwell. The Chairman had also carried out a number of fundraising events over the previous few weeks which had raised approximately £8,000 for his good cause.

5. CONSTITUENCY ISSUES

The following Members spoke for up to three minutes on issues which specifically related to their division and were relevant to the services provided by the County Council:-

Councillor Michelle Welsh regarding green and open spaces in Arnold South

Councillor Jason Zadrozny regarding road safety in Ashfields

Councillor David Martin regarding issues with social care in Selston

Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan regarding education cuts in Bingham

Councillor Dave Shaw regarding the impact of bus service reductions on Hucknall

The time limit of 15 minutes for speeches was reached and the remaining speech fell.

6a. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

The following petitions were presented to the Chairman as indicated below: -

- (1) Councillor Matt Barney, regarding withdrawal of the Skylink bus service through Sutton Bonington and other villages

(2) Councillor John 'Maggie' McGrath, regarding resident parking in his division

RESOLVED: 2023/004

That the petitions be referred to the appropriate Cabinet Member for consideration in accordance with the Procedure Rules, with a report being brought back to Council in due course.

6b. RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

RESOLVED: 2023/005

That the contents and actions taken as set out in the report be noted.

Councillor Samantha Deakin left the Chamber at 10.41am during consideration of this item and did not return to the meeting.

7. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2023-24

Councillor Gordon Wheeler introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2023/006 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Jonathan Wheeler.

Following a debate, the Chairman put the motion to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2023/006

That the Pay Policy Statement be approved, as set out in the appendix to the report, for publication on the Council's website in April 2023.

Councillor Helen-Ann Smith left the Chamber at 11.04am during consideration of this item and did not return to the meeting.

Councillor Tom Hollis left the Chamber at 11.07am and returned at 11.18am during consideration of this item.

8. DEVOLUTION DEAL - CONSIDERATION OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND SUBMISSION THE EAST MIDLANDS COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY PROPOSAL TO GOVERNMENT

Councillor Ben Bradley MP introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2023/007 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Bruce Laughton.

Following a debate, the Chairman put the motion to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2023/007

- 1) That the final Proposal as attached at Appendix 2 to the report be approved, having regard to the consultation responses, and the public sector equality duty, to create the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) for the areas of Nottinghamshire County, Derbyshire County, Derby City and Nottingham City.
- 2) That it be noted how the Proposal has been amended to take account of the results of the Consultation, other engagement activity, and recent developments as set out in the report and in more detail within Appendix 1 (the Summary of the Consultation and the Constituent Councils' Response), Appendix 4 (the Consultation Report), and Appendix 3 (the Engagement Report) of the report.
- 3) That it be agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to submit the Proposal in consultation with the Chief Executives of the other Constituent Councils to the Secretary of State once the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill has received Royal Assent and the relevant provisions come into force.
- 4) That it be agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to approve any typographical or technical amendments to the final Proposal which the Chief Executives of the other three Councils also agree on, on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council, prior to submission.
- 5) To note that a further report will be brought back to Council to consent to the relevant Statutory Instrument that will formally establish the EMCCA in due course.

Councillor Andy Meakin left the Chamber at 12.14pm and returned at 12.25pm during consideration of this item.

Councillor Tom Hollis left the meeting at 12.23pm during consideration of this item and did not return to the meeting.

The Council adjourned from 12.39pm to 1.45pm for lunch.

Councillor Pauline Allan did not return to the meeting after lunch.

9. EXECUTIVE REPORT – KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

RESOLVED: 2023/008

That the contents of the report be noted.

10a. QUESTIONS TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AUTHORITY

1 question had been received as follows: -

- 1) from Councillor Jason Zadrozny regarding Ashfield Fire Station (Councillor Michael Payne replied)

The full response to the question above are set out in set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

10b. QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

13 questions had been received as follows: -

- 1) from Councillor Bethan Eddy concerning Investment Zones (Councillor Ben Bradley MP replied)
- 2) from Councillor Penny Gowland concerning school places in West Bridgford (Councillor Tracey Taylor replied)
- 3) from Councillor Dave Shaw about bus services (Councillor Neil Clarke MBE replied)
- 4) from Councillor Kate Foale about staff representation in scrutiny arrangements (Councillor Gordon Wheeler replied)
- 5) from Councillor Mike Introna regarding Levelling Up Partnerships (Ben Bradley MP replied)
- 6) from Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan concerning strategic review of recycling centre network (Councillor Neil Clarke MBE replied)
- 7) from Councillor Michelle Welsh concerning frontline worker interactions with families experiencing food poverty (Councillor Tracey Taylor replied)
- 8) from Councillor Matt Barney about Skylink bus service (Councillor Neil Clarke MBE replied)

The full responses to the questions above are set out in set out in Appendix B to these minutes.

The time limit of 60 minutes allowed for questions was reached before the following questions were asked. A written response to the questions would be provided to the Councillors who asked the questions within 15 working days of the meeting and be included in the papers for the next available Full Council meeting after the deadline.

- 9) from Councillor Lee Waters regarding update on costings for offices at Top Wighay (Councillor Keith Girling to reply)
- 10) from Councillor Anne Callaghan BEM regarding school meals for those not receiving free school meals (Councillor Tracey Taylor to reply)
- 11) from Councillor John ‘Maggie’ McGrath regarding resurfacing off Pasture Road and safe crossing for Albany School (Councillor Neil Clarke MBE to reply)
- 12) from Councillor Steve Carr regarding the Councillors Divisional Fund (Councillor Richard Jackson to reply)
- 13) from Councillor Paul Henshaw regarding CQC ratings for residential care homes (Councillor Matt Barney to reply)

11. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

MOTION ONE – CARRIED OVER FROM 20 JANUARY 2023 MEETING

A Motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan and seconded by Councillor Debbie Darby:

“Nottinghamshire County Council believes that it should do everything possible to ensure that no child goes hungry.

This Council notes that according to information from the October 2022 school census, covering pupils in years R-11 in all primary, secondary and special schools in the county (including academies) there are 25,265 - 22.1% of all pupils claiming free school meals.

This Council further notes the following table which shows the highest number of schoolchildren ever claiming free school meals across Nottinghamshire.

| District of school | Number on roll NCY R-11 (1) | Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals (2) | Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals (2) |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Ashfield | 17,997 | 5,283 | 29.4 |
| Bassetlaw | 16,130 | 3,795 | 23.5 |
| Broxtowe | 14,910 | 2,913 | 19.5 |
| Gedling | 16,469 | 3,208 | 19.5 |
| Mansfield | 16,711 | 4,681 | 28.0 |
| Newark | 14,225 | 3,370 | 23.7 |
| Rushcliffe | 18,055 | 2,015 | 11.2 |
| Nottinghamshire | 114,497 | 25,265 | 22.1 |

This Council believes that there are children who may be entitled to free school meals but do not claim them for a variety of reasons.

This Council therefore resolves to increase Free School Meal take up by investigating whether Nottinghamshire County Council can:

- 1) Automatically enrol children on to free school meals, using existing Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction data.
- 2) Implement a policy of 'opt out' meaning that those not aware of their entitlement can benefit from free school meals.

The council believes that this will significantly increase Free School Meal uptake in Nottinghamshire, which will lead to additional Pupil Premium Funding to help reduce the gap in attainment between children from higher and lower income households.”

An amendment to the motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Ben Bradley MP and seconded by Councillor Tracey Taylor:

“Nottinghamshire County Council believes that it should do everything possible to ensure that no child goes hungry.

This Council notes that according to information from the October 2022 school census, covering pupils in years R-11 in all primary, secondary and special schools in the county (including academies) there are 25,265 - 22.1% of all pupils claiming free school meals.

This Council further notes the following table which shows the **highest** number of schoolchildren ~~ever~~ claiming free school meals across Nottinghamshire.

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| Nottinghamshire | 114,497 | 25,265 | 22.1 |

This Council acknowledges the ongoing work of the Children and Families department and their continued efforts to find new ways of encouraging parents and carers to enrol onto the free school meal scheme through regular bulletins and Governor communications.

However, this Council **believes recognises** that there are children who may be entitled to free school meals but do not claim them for a variety of reasons.

This Council therefore resolves to increase Free School Meal take up by investigating whether Nottinghamshire County Council can:

- 1) **Automatically Expand and seek new methods of enrolling** children onto free school meals, **using by exploring ways in which** existing Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction data **can be shared and used more effectively by schools and data holders.**
- 2) ~~Implement a policy of 'opt out'~~ **Take action to improve public awareness so meaning** that those **currently** not aware of their entitlement can benefit from free school meals.

The Council believes that this will **significantly** increase Free School Meal uptake in Nottinghamshire, which will lead to additional Pupil Premium Funding to help reduce the gap in attainment between children from higher and lower income households.”

The meeting was adjourned from 3.15pm to 3.30pm to allow the amendment to be considered.

The amendment was accepted by the mover of the Motion and became the altered (substantive) motion.

A further amendment was submitted for validation. The meeting adjourned from 3.31pm to 4.11pm to enable the amendment to be validated. The amendment was ruled as invalid by the Monitoring Officer under paragraph 63d of the Council Procedure Rules (page 55 of the Constitution).

Following a debate, the Chairman put the altered motion to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2023/009

“Nottinghamshire County Council believes that it should do everything possible to ensure that no child goes hungry.

This Council notes that according to information from the October 2022 school census, covering pupils in years R-11 in all primary, secondary and special schools in the county (including academies) there are 25,265 - 22.1% of all pupils claiming free school meals.

This Council further notes the following table which shows the number of schoolchildren claiming free school meals across Nottinghamshire.

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However, this Council recognises that there are children who may be entitled to free school meals but do not claim them for a variety of reasons.

This Council therefore resolves to increase Free School Meal take up by investigating whether Nottinghamshire County Council can:

- 1) Expand and seek new methods of enrolling children onto free school meals, by exploring ways in which existing Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction data can be shared and used more effectively by schools and data holders.
- 2) Take action to improve public awareness so that those currently not aware of their entitlement can benefit from free school meals.

The Council believes that this will increase Free School Meal uptake in Nottinghamshire, which will lead to additional Pupil Premium Funding to help reduce the gap in attainment between children from higher and lower income households.”

MOTION TWO – CARRIED OVER FROM 20 JANUARY 2023 MEETING

The Motion was withdrawn.

MOTION THREE

A Motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Paul Henshaw and seconded by Councillor Mike Pringle:

“On 27 February 2023, it was reported that Nottinghamshire was named one of ‘most dangerous places to live in UK for crime’.

An Office for National Statistics (ONS) report published in January confirmed that in the annual period between September 2021 and 2022, every area of Nottinghamshire has experienced rising crime, including:

- In Ashfield, an increase in ‘Bicycle Theft’ by 115% and of ‘Non-Residential Burglaries’ by 50%.
- In Bassetlaw, an increase in ‘possession of dangerous weapons’ by 76% and ‘Violent Crime’ by 23%.
- In Mansfield, rises in ‘Robbery’ by 71% and ‘Shoplifting’ by 66%.
- In Newark and Sherwood, an increase in ‘Sexual Offences’ by 41% and ‘Public Order Offences’ by 27%.
- In the South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership area, an increase in ‘All other theft’ by 28% and ‘Theft from person’ by 14%.
- Across Nottinghamshire, Total Recorded Crimes rising by 15%.

This Council’s Plan, The Nottinghamshire Plan, states:

“Helping our communities to stay safe is one of our top priorities as a Council. Over 1 in 3 people hoped to see lower crime in their local area over the next 10 years. So, we’ll lead the Safer Nottinghamshire Board, working closely with Nottinghamshire Police, to reduce crime and make people feel safer and more protected.”

The Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB) developed a 3-year Community Safety Agreement, to be reviewed annually from 2020-2023. This agreement outlines the strategic priorities of the SNB and assigns strategic leads to each priority.

This Council therefore resolves to recommend to the SNB that they:

- Ensure that rising crime rates across Nottinghamshire are acknowledged in the upcoming annual SNB CSA review.
- Consider the identified specific types of rising crime within a future CSA beyond 2023, to ensure there are targeted responses to these crimes across Nottinghamshire.
- Report on performance under current strategic priorities outlined in the SNB CSA and review whether those currently assigned to lead on these priorities remain suitable.

Ensure that all past and future SNB CSA annual review reports are published online and easily accessible to Nottinghamshire residents via the Nottinghamshire County Council website.”

An amendment to the motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Chris Barnfather and seconded by Councillor Mike Introna:

“On 27 February 2023, it was reported that Nottinghamshire was named ~~one of~~ **the 18th** ‘most dangerous places ~~area out of 42~~ to live in **the** UK for crime’.

An Office for National Statistics (ONS) report published in January confirmed that in the annual period between September 2021 and 2022, every area of Nottinghamshire has experienced rising crime **in particular categories, although the overall picture across different categories was varied.** including:

- ~~• In Ashfield, an increase in ‘Bicycle Theft’ by 115% and of ‘Non-Residential Burglaries’ by 50%.~~
- ~~• In Bassetlaw, an increase in ‘possession of dangerous weapons’ by 76% and ‘Violent Crime’ by 23%.~~
- ~~• In Mansfield, rises in ‘Robbery’ by 71% and ‘Shoplifting’ by 66%.~~
- ~~• In Newark and Sherwood, an increase in ‘Sexual Offences’ by 41% and ‘Public Order Offences’ by 27%.~~
- ~~• In the South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership area, an increase in ‘All other theft’ by 28% and ‘Theft from person’ by 14%.~~
- ~~• Across Nottinghamshire, Total Recorded Crimes rising by 15%.~~

This Council’s Plan, The Nottinghamshire Plan, states:

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- Consider the identified specific types of rising crime within a future CSA beyond 2023, to ensure there are targeted responses to these crimes across Nottinghamshire.
- Report on performance under current strategic priorities outlined in the SNB CSA and review whether those currently assigned to lead on these priorities remain suitable.

Ensure that all past and future SNB CSA annual review reports are published online and easily accessible to Nottinghamshire residents via the Nottinghamshire County Council website.”

The Council adjourned from 4.31pm to 4.39pm to allow the amendment to be considered. The amendment was accepted by the mover of the motion and became the substantive (altered) motion.

Following a debate, the Chairman put the altered motion to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2023/010

On 27 February 2023, it was reported that Nottinghamshire was named the 18th 'most dangerous area out of 42 to live in the UK for crime'.

An Office for National Statistics (ONS) report published in January confirmed that in the annual period between September 2021 and 2022, every area of Nottinghamshire had experienced rising crime in particular categories, although the overall picture across different categories was varied.

This Council's Plan, The Nottinghamshire Plan, states:

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- Report on performance under current strategic priorities outlined in the SNB CSA and review whether those currently assigned to lead on these priorities remain suitable.

Ensure that all past and future SNB CSA annual review reports are published online and easily accessible to Nottinghamshire residents via the Nottinghamshire County Council website."

Councillors Lee Waters and Dave Shaw left the Chamber at 4.20pm during consideration of this item and did not return to the meeting.

Councillor Bruce Laughton did not return to the Chamber after the meeting reconvened at 4.39pm.

Councillor Ben Bradley MP left the Chamber at 5.02pm and did not return to the Chamber.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.27 pm.

CHAIRMAN