



Nottinghamshire County Council

Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 27th March 2014 (10.30 am – 4.35 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

John Allin (Chairman)

Pauline Allan (Vice-Chairman)

	Reg Adair		Darren Langton
	Roy Allan		Bruce Laughton
	Chris Barnfather		Keith Longdon
	Alan Bell	A	Rachel Madden
	Joyce Bosnjak		Diana Meale
	Nicki Brooks		John Ogle
	Andrew Brown		Philip Owen
	Richard Butler		Michael Payne
	Steve Calvert		John Peck JP
	Ian Campbell		Sheila Place
	Steve Carr		Liz Plant
	Steve Carroll		Darrell Pulk
	John Clarke		Alan Rhodes
A	John Cottee	A	Ken Rigby
	Jim Creamer		Tony Roberts MBE
	Mrs Kay Cutts MBE		Mrs Sue Saddington
	Maureen Dobson		Andy Sissons
	Dr John Doddy		Pam Skelding
	Boyd Elliott		Stella Smedley MBE JP
	Sybil Fielding		Martin Suthers OBE
	Kate Foale		Parry Tsimbirdis
	Stephen Garner		Gail Turner
	Glynn Gilfoyle		Keith Walker
	Kevin Greaves		Stuart Wallace
	Alice Grice		Muriel Weisz
	John Handley		Gordon Wheeler
	Colleen Harwood		John Wilkinson
	Stan Heptinstall MBE		Jacky Williams
	Tom Hollis		John Willmott
	Richard Jackson	A	Yvonne Woodhead
	Roger Jackson		Liz Yates
	David Kirkham		Jason Zadrozny
	John Knight		

HONORARY ALDERMEN

Martin Brandon-Bravo OBE
John Carter

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mick Burrows	(Chief Executive)
Jayne Francis–Ward	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Chris Kenny	(Adult Social Care, Health & Public Protection)
Jon Wilson	(Adult Social Care, Health & Public Protection)
Derek Higton	(Children, Families and Cultural Services)
Anthony May	(Children, Families and Cultural Services)
John Slater	(Children, Families and Cultural Services)
Sara Allmond	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Carl Bilbey	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Martin Done	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Keith Ford	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Catherine Munro	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Paul Simpson	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Anna Vincent	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Michelle Welsh	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)

OPENING PRAYER

Upon the Council convening, prayers were led by the Chairman's Chaplain.

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED: 2014/013

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the County Council held on 27th February 2014 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor John Cottee (other County Council business)
Councillor Rachel Madden (medical/illness)
Councillor Ken Rigby (other reasons)
Councillor Yvonne Woodhead (medical/illness)

Councillor Dobson submitted her apologies as she needed to leave the meeting early to attend a funeral.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

Book presentation

Councillor Stan Heptinstall MBE presented the Chairman with a copy of 'Remembering the People of Bramcote' by the Bramcote History Group which he had supported the production of via his Councillor's Divisional Fund.

5. CONSTITUENCY ISSUES

Set out in Appendix A to these minutes is a full note of the issues discussed by Councillors as follows:-

Councillor Jason Zadrozny - regarding resurfacing work on Dalestorth Road

Councillor Tom Hollis – regarding road safety on Alfreton Road

Councillor Gordon Wheeler- regarding tram work issues in his division

Councillor Andy Sissons – regarding various constituency issues

6. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

The following petition was presented to the Chairman as indicated below:-

- (1) Councillor Stuart Wallace regarding residential parking on Earp Avenue in Newark

RESOLVED: 2014/014

That the petition be referred to the appropriate Committee for consideration in accordance with the Procedure Rules, with a report being brought back to Council in due course

7. QUESTIONS

(a) QUESTIONS TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AUTHORITY

No questions were received

(b) QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Eleven questions had been received as follows:-

- (1) from Councillor Reg Adair about the increase in Council Tax (Councillor Alan Rhodes replied).
- (2) from Councillor Jason Zadrozny regarding celebrating 800 years since the signing of the Magna Carta. Councillor Zadrozny withdrew the question at the meeting.
- (3) from Councillor Jason Zadrozny asking for a guarantee of no library closures. Councillor Zadrozny withdrew the question at the meeting.
- (4) from Councillor Tom Hollis regarding funding to Framework. Councillor Hollis withdrew the question at the meeting.
- (5) from Councillor Jason Zadrozny concerning additional funding for road repairs. Councillor Zadrozny withdrew the question at the meeting.
- (6) from Councillor Steve Carr about additional funding for road repairs. Councillor Carr withdrew the question at the meeting.
- (7) from Councillor Steve Carr about emergency fund for those affected by the tram works. Councillor Carr withdrew the question at the meeting.
- (8) from Councillor Steve Carr requesting that the NCT 14 bus route be subsidised for 12 months. Councillor Carr withdrew the question at the meeting.
- (9) from Councillor Richard Butler concerning allocation of Supporting Local Communities funding. Councillor Butler withdrew the question at the meeting.
- (10) from Councillor Jason Zadrozny regarding transport of commissioner responsibilities. Councillor Zadrozny withdrew the question at the meeting.
- (11) from Councillor Jason Zadrozny concerning the funding of CAMHS in Nottinghamshire (Councillor Joyce Bosnjak replied).

The full responses to these questions are set out in Appendix B to these Minutes

Councillor Stella Smedley MBE JP arrived at the meeting during question one.

Following completion of question one, Councillor Steve Carr moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE:-

“That Standing Order 32 regarding the time limit of one hour for questions be suspended for the duration of the meeting to suspend the one hour time limit for questions.”

The motion was put to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared that it was lost.

The requisite number of Members requested a recorded vote and it was ascertained that the following 29 Members voted '**For**' the motion:-

Reg Adair	Keith Longdon
Chris Barnfather	John Ogle
Andrew Brown	Philip Owen
Richard Butler	Tony Roberts MBE
Steve Carr	Mrs Sue Saddington
Mrs Kay Cutts MBE	Andy Sissons
Dr John Doddy	Martin Suthers OBE
Boyd Elliott	Gail Turner
Stephen Garner	Keith Walker
John Handley	Stuart Wallace
Stan Heptinstall MBE	Gordon Wheeler
Tom Hollis	Jacky Williams
Richard Jackson	Liz Yates
Roger Jackson	Jason Zadrozny
Bruce Laughton	

The following 33 Members voted '**Against**' the motion:-

Pauline Allan	David Kirkham
Roy Allan	John Knight
John Allin	Darren Langton
Alan Bell	Diana Meale
Joyce Bosnjak	Michael Payne
Nicki Brooks	John Peck JP
Steve Calvert	Sheila Place
Ian Campbell	Liz Plant
Steve Carroll	Darrell Pulk
John Clarke	Alan Rhodes
Jim Creamer	Pamela Skelding
Sybil Fielding	Stella Smedley MBE JP
Kate Foale	Parry Tsimbiridis
Glynn Gilfoyle	Muriel Wwisz
Kevin Greaves	John Wilkinson
Alice Grice	John Wilmott
Colleen Harwood	

Councillor Maureen Dobson '**Abstained**' from the vote.

The Chairman declared that the motion was lost.

The meeting was adjourned from 11.51 am to 12.02 pm after question one had been completed to enable the Monitoring Officer to provide advice regarding withdrawing questions at the meeting.

8. CLARIFICATION OF MINUTES

The report provided Members with the opportunity to raise any matters of clarification in the Minutes of Committee meetings published since the last meeting.

9. AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

Councillor Alan Rhodes introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2014/015 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Joyce Bosnjak.

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Martin Suthers OBE:-

“That the proposition that a Councillors absence from meetings of more than 10 minutes should be recorded be amended to provide for 30 minutes instead of 10.”

Councillor Alan Rhodes as mover of the motion accepted the amendment to the motion.

The motion as amended was put to the vote and after a show of hands the Chairman declared that it was carried.

The requisite number of Members requested a recorded vote and it was ascertained that the following 55 Members voted '**For**' the motion:-

Reg Adair
Pauline Allan
Roy Allan
John Allin
Chris Barnfather
Alan Bell
Joyce Bosnjak
Nicki Brooks
Andrew Brown
Richard Butler
Steve Calvert
Ian Campbell
Steve Carroll
John Clarke
Jim Creamer
Mrs Kay Cutts MBE

Dr John Doddy
Boyd Elliott
Sybil Fielding
Kate Foale
Stephen Garner
Glynn Gilfoyle
Kevin Greaves
Alice Grice
John Handley
Colleen Harwood
Richard Jackson
Roger Jackson
David Kirkham
John Knight
Darren Langton
Bruce Laughton

Diana Meale
John Ogle
Philip Owen
Michael Payne
John Peck JP
Sheila Place
Liz Plant
Darrell Pulk
Alan Rhodes
Tony Roberts MBE
Mrs Sue Saddington
Andy Sissons

Pamela Skelding
Martin Suthers OBE
Parry Tsimbirdis
Gail Turner
Keith Walker
Stuart Wallace
Muriel Weisz
Gordon Wheeler
John Wilkinson
John Wilmott
Liz Yates

The following 6 Members voted '**Against**' the motion:-

Steve Carr
Stan Heptinstall MBE
Tom Hollis

Keith Longdon
Jacky Williams
Jason Zadrozny

There were no abstentions.

The Chairman declared the motion as amended carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2014/015

- (1) That the Procedure Rules for meetings of Full Council be amended as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) That the terms of reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board be amended as set out in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (3) That Part Three of the Constitution, Transparency – Access to Information and Meetings be amended, as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.

Council was adjourned from 12.45pm to 1.45pm during consideration of this item. Councillor Stella Smedley MBE JP did not return after the adjournment.

10. APPROVAL OF THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE STRATEGY

Councillor Muriel Weisz introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2014/016 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Joyce Bosnjak.

RESOLVED: 2014/016

That the introduction and implementation of the Adult Social Care Strategy be approved.

11. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2014-2015

Councillor Alan Rhodes introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2014/017 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Joyce Bosnjak.

Councillor Liz Yates moved an amendment which was ruled invalid by the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED: 2014/017

That the Pay Policy Statement which sets out the Council's existing policies, procedures and terms and conditions of employment for all staff for publication on the Council's website by 1st April 2014 be approved, as appended to the report.

Councillor Stella Smedley MBE JP returned to the meeting during consideration of this item. Councillor Tom Hollis left the meeting during consideration of this item.

12. NOTICE OF MOTION

A motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Bruce Laughton and seconded by Councillor Roger Jackson:-

"In light of the flooding events that have occurred both in Nottinghamshire and elsewhere in the country, damaging many homes and businesses, this Council:-

- a) Calls on the Environment Agency to fulfil its duty to properly dredge and maintain our main rivers wherever appropriate throughout Nottinghamshire;
- b) Calls on all relevant public bodies to provide more support for local voluntary organisations which are tackling many of the issues arising from flooding;
- c) Calls on DEFRA to fast-track the already delayed implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) to allow the power vested in the Nottinghamshire Flood Risk Management Board to be exercised;
- d) Calls for an extension in the powers and geographical areas of influence for Internal Drainage Boards (in relation to the Land Drainage Act 1991) to improve the overall condition of our waterways and hold riparian owners fully to account;
- e) Calls on planning authorities to lobby for the appropriate legal powers to only accept planning applications within the flood plain in exceptional cases where detailed mitigation measures are in place;

f) Commits as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to be more proactive, rather than reactive, in implementing its responsibilities under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010.”

The following amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Steve Calvert and seconded by Councillor Alice Grice:-

“In light of the flooding events that have occurred both in Nottinghamshire and elsewhere in the country, damaging many homes and businesses, this Council:-

a) Calls on the Environment Agency to continue to fulfil its duty to properly dredge and maintain our main rivers wherever appropriate and suitable, bearing in mind all factors, throughout Nottinghamshire;

b) Congratulates all relevant public bodies who have provided support for local voluntary organisations which are tackling many of the issues arising from flooding;

c) Welcomes the recent announcement that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is to fast-track the already delayed implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) to allow the power vested in the Nottinghamshire Flood Risk Management Board to be exercised;

d) Calls for the County Council’s Flood Risk Management Strategy to consider whether an extension in the powers and geographical areas of influence for Internal Drainage Boards (in relation to the Land Drainage Act 1991) to improve the overall condition of our waterways and hold riparian owners fully to account, is the best strategy for Nottinghamshire;

e) Continues to work in partnership with Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to ensure flood risk issues are fully considered when determining planning applications and the formulation of Local Plans;

f) Recognises the proactive approach taken in reducing flood risk and supporting communities in Nottinghamshire in its role as the Lead Local Flood Authority.”

Councillor Bruce Laughton as mover of the original motion accepted the change to the motion with the following addition to paragraph d – “... hold riparian owners fully to account is the best strategy for Nottinghamshire **in the interest of openness and transparency**.”

The motion as amended was put to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was carried.

RESOLVED 2014/018

In light of the flooding events that have occurred both in Nottinghamshire and elsewhere in the country, damaging many homes and businesses, this Council:-

- a) Calls on the Environment Agency to continue to fulfil its duty to properly dredge and maintain our main rivers wherever appropriate and suitable, bearing in mind all factors, throughout Nottinghamshire;
- b) Congratulates all relevant public bodies who have provided support for local voluntary organisations which are tackling many of the issues arising from flooding;
- c) Welcomes the recent announcement that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is to fast-track the already delayed implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) to allow the power vested in the Nottinghamshire Flood Risk Management Board to be exercised;
- d) Calls for the County Council's Flood Risk Management Strategy to consider whether an extension in the powers and geographical areas of influence for Internal Drainage Boards (in relation to the Land Drainage Act 1991) to improve the overall condition of our waterways and hold riparian owners fully to account, is the best strategy for Nottinghamshire in the interest of openness and transparency;
- e) Continues to work in partnership with Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to ensure flood risk issues are fully considered when determining planning applications and the formulation of Local Plans;
- f) Recognises the proactive approach taken in reducing flood risk and supporting communities in Nottinghamshire in its role as the Lead Local Flood Authority.

The meeting was adjourned from 3.15 pm to 3.23 pm

During consideration of this item, Councillor Tom Hollis returned to the meeting. Councillor Steve Carr left the meeting at 3.23pm and did not return, Councillor Stan Heptinstall MBE left the meeting at 3.31pm and did not return and Councillor Stella Smedley MBE JP left the meeting at 3.46pm and did not return.

13. ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

None

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 4.35 pm.

CHAIRMAN

APPENDIX A

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27th March 2014

3 MINUTE SPEECHES

Councillor Jason Zadrozny

“Certain members may recall ‘Points of View’; a TV show which some of us watched on a Sunday evening and you inevitably got a letter that said “disappointed of Milton Keynes” or such and I stand here today “disappointed of Sutton-in-Ashfield”.

Just last week it was seven years since I was elected to the County Council and for those seven years I've fought pretty hard to make sure that we have a fair distribution of funding into infrastructure and roads and pavements. I am always very pleased when I get roads resurfaced and I know that many of us are having this pebbledashing which is an interim measure, but when roads are properly resurfaced I think it attracts investment. It shows we are proud of our area and it serves the people very well who pay their taxes and deserve basic good infrastructure.

So I was delighted on 1st November when after almost seven years of campaigning, Dalestorth Road in my division finally was resurfaced, only to discover this week that it has now been dug up again. It reminded me somewhat of the advert where “if Carlsberg did road resurfacing”, it would be one of the best road resurfacing. They would lay the cables and the pipes and everything else at the same time, perhaps they would bury a body or two; that's not happened in Sutton North and I recall Councillor Saddington's Scrutiny panel did a significant amount of work on how the County Council could have a much more joined up approach with Utility companies so that they wouldn't be digging up our roads.

Dalestorth Road is being dug up from one end to the other by Severn Trent Water. The entirety of it which we have just paid to resurface - 147 days ago we finished resurfacing it and it's now being dug up. Residents are coming to me as the first port of call of the Council to say “What on earth's happening? Why have we not got that relationship with them?” I've looked through the closures, this is not emergency work, its scheduled maintenance work which the County Council's aware of.

So I plead to raise this issue that money's tight – we all appreciate that, but we all want more work to be done. So if the work's going to be done, let's make sure it lasts. This work won't last now, it's going to be patched and I just think it's a terrible, terrible shame and when very recently we have had and I know we might talk about it on Questions. Very recently coroner's reports in other parts of the country have reported that potholes are now a cause of fatality, I think we need to be sure that those basic services are got right first time Mr Chairman.”

Councillor Tom Hollis

“As many members will be aware; I have stood up many times in this chamber to talk about road safety. I am making this speech today to address the major concerns I have over the speeding along Alfreton Road. Members who know the area will be aware Alfreton Road is very close to Junction 28 of the M1 and directly adjoins the A38, which is the main ‘A’ road through Sutton. Indeed Alfreton Road used to be part of the original A38. Many drivers are now using Alfreton Road as an extension to the M1 and A38 and now, more so than ever, excessive speeding is a major issue.

Alfreton Road is a family area with many young families, and also situated on Alfreton Road is Mapplewells Primary School. Now the planning inspector has expressed his major concerns over Ashfield Council’s local plan, which will be leading to many more roads adjoining Alfreton Road leading to a massive increase in traffic problems.

Many members will recall that my predecessor Councillor Asbury secured funding for a zebra crossing outside the local Mapplewells Primary school. The County Council carried out average speed checks in preparation for the installation; the installation was rejected as the average speed was a fraction lower than the requirement. My point is that though the average speed fell just short, those driving above average and dangerously are still a significant number as the volume of traffic using this road is extremely high. Further, to accommodate the proposed development the County Council’s Highways Department have outlined plans to create a third lane along the road which could only aid speeding traffic and make the road more dangerous.

Many residents are asking why someone has to die before action is taken. At a recent local meeting Councillor Kirkham said this had to be the case, as finances are so tight. So what is the price of somebody’s life? And where is the money secured by Councillor Asbury for this area?

It is worth bearing in mind that Nottinghamshire Police have prioritised Sutton West as their number one problem spot for speeding traffic in North Ashfield. If it is the priority of the elected member to solve this issue, the priority of the police and most importantly the priority of local families then why is it being swept under the carpet by this administration?”

Councillor Gordon Wheeler

“I want to set the scene by saying that what I am about to talk about, which is the roads within my division, is not the decision of Nottinghamshire County Council officers. I would really like to make that clear before I begin.

Chairman, I have through petitions and constituency speeches drawn attention to Council of the dreadful state of roads in Compton Acres. This, Mr Chairman, is a direct result of heavy traffic being diverted here when part of Wilford Lane was closed for four months in late 2013 to accommodate the inflexible, unwanted, expensive tram extensions.

On a slightly lighter note, Mr Chairman Members will recall that on Monday this week, trams were grounded because of frost and overhead cables. Guess what? Good old fashioned buses came to the rescue until the sun defrosted the frost.

Against the background of savage cuts that have been made by this Council, even the vulnerable members of this community have not been spared. It is an absolute nonsense that this Council Mr Chairman, should pay for road repairs when it was NET's folly that caused the damage.

In a conversation with Councillor Greaves on the 24th February, I was assured that NET would be paying for the resurfacing. He said he would drop me an email confirming this. The same day I emailed Chris Charnley and copied in Councillor Greaves asking for email confirmation so that I could advise my residents of the good news. Again on the same day, constituents provided Nottinghamshire County Council officers including Chris Charnley with a CD/video of pictures highlighting the problems of our roads. Regrettably Mr Chairman, today there has been no response. I am more than happy, Councillor Greaves, if you so wish to forward the chain of emails to you once again.

The trams Mr Chairman, I am unreliably informed will be with us by the end of this year. I have been liaising with Nottinghamshire County Council officers regarding the probability of our roads being used as mega car parks. Although I have agreed with officers on residential parking schemes were premature at this stage Mr Chairman, my concern is that if there is a need for these measures, the cost will be met by this Council - this is totally mad. I would once again ask Councillor Graves to take a personal interest in these matters. Failing to do so will cost this Council a great deal of money."

Councillor Andy Sissons

"I would like to make you aware of the feelings of constituents of South Mansfield, particularly in the Newgate ward where some of my fellow residents feel that they are living in a forgotten quarter. Fortunately lighter nights are approaching but constant complaints that both myself and Councillor Garner have received concern street lighting.

Councillor Garner submitted a comprehensive list of faulty lights within our division on 9th January and although we were assured that lights are attended to as soon as possible, many of these lights were still out when Councillor Garner had to resubmit his list on 9th February. One light of particular concern constantly referred to in my community is number 10 on Newgate Lane. The lamp is causing people to fear for their safety as it is only yards from the end of a dark lane, a small car park and bushes and shrubbery providing potential hiding places for muggers in an area frequented by drug users. Even adult males have told me that they are wary of passing this point after dark. What is most annoying is the fact that this particular light was cut off down to 3 feet high last August because of extensive corrosion. We were assured that this lamp would be replaced before Christmas 2013 but we are still waiting.

Another issue is a complaint I passed on from a gentleman about overhanging vegetation on Newgate Lane. I contacted Highways with details and received an email from officers telling me that 'this minor obstruction had been dealt with' and photos were

attached to this email showing it had clearly not been dealt with. What made it particularly significant to myself was that I have fallen foul of this vegetation as it overhangs a very narrow part of the footpath. Buses drive right up to the pavement to straddle traffic calming humps and I sidestep to avoid being hit by a bus wing mirror only to get branches in my face.

Obviously with present financial constraints I would not send officers on a fool's errand, but the email I received seemed to imply just that.

On Monday this week I spoke to Andy Warrington about potholes on Gladstone Street, Belper Way, off Newgate Lane and received a prompt email, I must say at 3:30, letting me know that an inspection would be made. At 10:53 Tuesday morning I was sent an email alerting me that 'an enhanced inspection was carried out and no actionable defects were found' but then, just 24 minutes later, one was sent saying 'an officer has made some minor on-the-spot repairs and marked off four further areas for subsequent repair'.

The phrase that comes to mind with that one is 'should have gone to Specsavers'."

APPENDIX B

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27TH MARCH 2014 QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Question to the Leader of the Council, from Councillor Reg Adair

The Council Leader has supported publicly his party's *Freeze That Bill* campaign, which focuses on gas and electricity bills and claims to be concerned that "the cost of living is too high, and getting higher".

Therefore, can he explain his support for an increase of 1.99% in county council tax, which was not necessary to produce a balanced budget, but further increases the cost of living for Nottinghamshire residents?

Response from Councillor Alan Rhodes, Leader of the Council

Chairman, some of the decisions we have made have been difficult and tough decisions, we are clearing up a Tory mess and I take no pride in having to make some of the decisions that have been forced upon us.

For the past four years this County Council has taken the Pickles' bribe, the Council Tax Freeze Grant as it's known. While the Conservative administration froze council tax they increased charges for the most vulnerable. They stood up in this very Council Chamber and were proud, proud Chairman, of the £8.5 million profit they made from the elderly and the most vulnerable residents of Nottinghamshire, by increasing charges for vital services. So the most vulnerable and disadvantaged is the people that have paid for this Council taking the Council Tax Freeze bribe from Pickles and the Government. A bribe that over the four years has cost the Council millions of pounds.

Millions of pounds that could have saved some of our services. It could have saved our care homes from privatisation, it would have meant more social workers, there would have been no need to increase charges for services to the elderly, it would have saved Sherwood Industries – a supported employment facility and the list goes on. But the Conservatives like their friends in the Liberal Democrats, chose to support a council tax freeze and therefore have made this Council financially worse off and have made the most vulnerable in Nottinghamshire bear the brunt.

But of course this is what the Governments all about, tax cuts for millionaires and the bedroom tax for the poor.

We as a Labour administration are being financially responsible by proposing to increase council tax by a moderate 1.99%. This increase will secure permanent funding in the base budget which will be used to fund vital public services in this County.

Chairman, 78% of properties in Nottinghamshire are in bands A-C which will mean the vast majority of Nottinghamshire residents will pay less than the standard Band D rate, on average this will mean a 38p increase per week per resident.

At the heart of this decision is the fact there is a considerable reduction in the central Government settlement grant. It would be financially irresponsible for this Council to accept the freeze grant. We have to take control of our own financial destiny and not be dependent on Government hand-outs.

Chairman, we are not alone in increasing Council Tax. In fact it was recently reported that 124 Councils have voted to increase Council Tax 64 of which are Conservative Councils. The 64 Conservative led local authorities that have voted to increase their bills account for around a third of all Tory led councils in the country.

These included Oxfordshire County Council, which is David Cameron's local authority, and Runnymede Council in the constituency of Philip Hammond, the Defence Secretary along with Tory heartlands such as Surrey and Kent.

By increasing Council tax we will be able to put £5 million into the base budget per year and this will enable us to deliver some of those essential services that our communities depend on so much.

Chairman, I do support the freeze the bill campaign and unlike the Conservatives, Labour recognises that we are facing a Cost of Living Crisis and the energy rip off going on in Britain today which this Government is presiding over is part of the problem.

But actually Councillor Adair's out of step with this Government because yesterday in Prime Minister's Questions David Cameron described the decision by SSE to freeze their prices until 2016 as 'hugely welcome'. Labour is clearly driving the agenda on energy crises and the energy companies are responding accordingly and the Tories are running behind us playing catch-up.

Pensioners seeing their gas and electricity bills go up every month is one of the problems in this country that is being caused by the energy rip-off that his Government presided over.

We listened to George Osborne a week ago present a budget which was once again a budget for the few and not the many. We've still got young people stuck on the dole for months on end. We've still got parents facing childcare costs so high that it does not always make going to work pay. People aspiring to own their own home but finding rising prices have put their dreams out of reach. Nurses who've been told they won't even get the below inflation pay rise they were promised certainly aren't feeling that they're in it together with the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats.

But it's OK because according to the Conservative Chairman, all hardworking people want is a penny off a pint and a game of bingo.

This country needs a recovery for the many, not just for people at the top. But once again the ConDem Government and let's not forget the Liberal Democrats in all of this who continue to prop up Conservative policies and have chosen to give people earning over £1 million an average tax cut of over £100,000 this year.

Bank bonuses are on the up, even though bank lending to small businesses keeps falling.

A Labour Budget for this Country would have tackled the cost-of-living crisis and would have got the deficit down in a fairer way.

1. Freeze energy bills until 2017 and reform the energy market to stop customers being ripped off
2. Cut taxes for 24 million working people on middle and low incomes with a lower 10p starting rate of income tax
3. Make work pay by expanding free childcare to 25 hours a week for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds
4. Put young people back to work, with a job the young unemployed have to take – paid for by a tax on bank bonuses
5. Get 200,000 homes built a year by 2020 and cut business rates for small firms
6. Balance the books in a fairer way by reversing the £3 billion tax cut for people earning over £150,000

Chairman, the 1.99% rise in council tax has been put in place in to protect some of the services that both the national Conservatives and our very own local Conservatives are intent on either destroying or privatising.

The Conservatives alternative budget that we heard a few weeks ago was based on a series of very tenuous assumptions about the privatisation of services. They did not account for the initial expenditure required for the process of outsourcing, nor did they provide any timeframe. They assumed that the savings could be made overnight and this is patently not the case.

Chairman, I am not saying that all outsourcing is ineffective, in fact we have seen some very good examples of outsourcing in this very authority within our highways department and in adult social care and health for example but outsourcing is something that requires planning and careful preparation and I firmly believe that there are many services which are more effective and can be protected if they are run in more innovative and cost-effective way, which may include the creation of Trusts, more community involvement and yes, some prudent and effective outsourcing in fact a new operating model for service delivery in this authority.

Interestingly Councillor Adair in his budget speech failed to acknowledge the many outsourcing disasters including the Olympic fiasco by G4s or indeed their other fiasco with the prison service and instead tried to paint a picture that the mass outsourcing of our services would involve no outgoing costs, that the savings would be immediate and outsourcing would mean more effective services and as I said a moment ago this is patently not the case.

The U.S Management Consultant and author Peter Drucker said ‘the greatest danger in times of turbulence is not the turbulence; it is to act with yesterday’s logic’.

Chairman, I would like to finish by saying that this administration will not take lectures from Councillor Adair and the former Conservative Administration whose financial incompetence left this Council in a financial mess. A £133 million hole in the budget; that is the price that the residents of Nottinghamshire have paid for a four year Conservative term. But of course the people of Nottinghamshire quickly realised that and they voted them out as soon as they possibly could.

Question to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, from Councillor Jason Zadrozny

Evidence shows that 1 in 10 children and young people have a mental disorder with many continuing to have mental health problems into adulthood.

Data from YoungMinds based on a Freedom on Information request, has found that of the 51 local authorities asked 34 had significantly reduced their Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) budget since 2010.

These cuts are impacting on the provision of early intervention services, meaning that more young people will not receive support when they first need. This could mean children and young people are placed in hospitals away from home or being placed on adult mental health wards, not because of clinical need, but because of lack of resources locally.

Can the committee chair update members on the situation with regards to CAMHS funding locally. Also inform members of how many cases such of those I outlined are current in the county. Further will the chair outline what future provision they foresee for CAMHS funding locally.

Response from Councillor Joyce Bosnjak, Chairman of the Public Health Committee

Thank you Chairman and I’d like to thank Jason as well for putting this question because it’s a really important issue that I feel particularly passionate about so thank you Jason.

Over 850,000 children in the UK are diagnosed with a mental health problem. The importance of early intervention has been widely reported for example, by Dr Raphael Kelvin, Chief Psychiatrist and Clinical Lead for the MindEd programme who said; “Half of all diagnosable mental health conditions start before the age of 14 and 75 per cent by the age of 21, so identifying children at the earliest opportunity is crucial in setting them on the best path in life.”

I think that it’s crucial that for everything we do as an authority we seek to address that particular problem that I feel that mental health has been the Cinderella service of the National Health Service for too long.

In Nottinghamshire, the six Clinical Commissioning Groups commission community targeted and specialised out-patient based Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

Nottinghamshire County Council commissions specialist services such as the Looked After Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and social worker input into targeted Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

In Nottinghamshire, funding for these elements of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services has ~~not~~ been reduced since 2010. However, the impact of inflation, cost improvement programmes within provider trusts and increasing need and demand for services have put the services under pressure, with reported increases in waiting times for children and young people to be seen in some areas.

Inpatient and highly specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services are funded and commissioned by NHS England at a regional level.

The Nottinghamshire-Lincolnshire Area Team of NHS England is responsible for commissioning these inpatient and highly specialised services for the East Midlands as a whole, and thus for the children and young people in Nottinghamshire.

As is the case nationally, there is a shortage of local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services inpatient beds and limited highly specialised capacity, with the result that as of 13 March 2014 (which is the latest available data we have), 12 young people from Nottinghamshire were placed out of area. It is recognised that this situation is unsatisfactory and regular bed management meetings are held locally, to ensure that where appropriate, young people are returned to Nottinghamshire as quickly as possible.

In relation to numbers of children and young people under 18 years admitted to adult wards, the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services Commissioners for Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands are not aware of any cases.

It is recognised that the issues faced in Nottinghamshire are national issues. That doesn't mean that we don't need to address them.

In the light of concerns that have been expressed by the Chief Medical Officer and others about both the extent to which children and adolescents are affected by mental health problems and difficulties with gaining access to appropriate treatment, the Health Select Committee is undertaking an inquiry into children's and adolescent mental health and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

Locally, a comprehensive health needs assessment of the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people in Nottinghamshire was completed in 2013 and the recommendation to complete a comprehensive Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services pathway review has been taken forward. This pathway review is now underway and will inform future commissioning of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, with the aim of ensuring that children and young people in Nottinghamshire

achieve the best emotional wellbeing and mental health possible. The review will be complete by the end of April and outputs and recommendations will be presented to stakeholder groups and committees in May/June of this year.

It is no secret that I am particularly keen to address this significant problem and indeed we have had stakeholder events at the Health and Wellbeing Board to which all contributors to this have been invited, particularly the voluntary sector. So anyone who has a role to play in the treatment of young people and looking after the emotional wellbeing of children in Nottinghamshire has had their heads together. So I look forward to presenting a similar stakeholders group the findings of that particular piece of work. I'm happy to take any further questions on that.