

Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 19 May 2011 (10.45 am – 4.57 pm)

## Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

## COUNCILLOR

Thomas A J Pettengell (In the Chair until the election of a new Chairman)

Keith Walker (Chairman)

Carol Pepper (Vice Chairman)

	Reg Adair		Keith Longdon
	John Allin		Rachel Madden
	Fiona Asbury		Geoff Merry
	Chris Barnfather		Mick Murphy
	Victor Bobo		Philip Owen
	Joyce Bosnjak		Sheila Place
	Richard Butler		Darrell Pulk
	Steve Carr		Mike Quigley MBE
	Steve Carroll		Mrs Wendy Quigley
	Allen Clarke		Alan Rhodes
	Ged Clarke	A	Ken Rigby
	John Clarke		Kevin Rostance
	L B Cooper		Mrs Sue Saddington
	John Cottey		Mel Shepherd MBE
	Michael J Cox		S Smedley MBE JP
	Jim Creamer		Mark Spencer MP
A	Bob Cross		June Stendall
	Mrs Kay Cutts		Andy Stewart
A	V H Dobson		Martin Suthers OBE
	Sybil Fielding		Lynn Sykes
	Stephen Garner		David Taylor
	Michelle Gent	A	Parry Tsimbiridis
	Glynn Gilfoyle		Gail Turner
	Keith Girling		Stuart Wallace
	Kevin Greaves		Les Ward
	John M Hemsall		Gordon Wheeler
	Stan Heptinstall MBE		Chris Winterton
	Rev. Tom Irvine		Brian Wombwell
	Richard Jackson		Martin Wright
	Rod Kempster		Liz Yates
	Eric Kerry		Jason Zadrozny
	John Knight		
	Bruce Laughton		

## OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Hon. Alderman Martin Brandon-Bravo OBE  
Hon. Alderman Terry Butler  
Hon. Alderman John Carter  
Hon. Alderman Stewart Pattinson  
Hon. Alderman The Hon. Joan Taylor MBE

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mick Burrows	(Chief Executive)
Jayne Francis-Ward	(Assistant Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer)
Caroline Baria	(Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection)
Anthony May	(Children, Families & Cultural Services)
Tim Gregory	(Environment & Resources)
Sara Allmond	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Carl Bilbey	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Carol Devaney	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Claire Dixon	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Chris Holmes	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Marie Lewis (part)	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Lyndsey Parnell	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Daniel Roberts	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Peter Saunders (part)	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Paul Simpson	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Linda Smith (part)	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Alan Sumby	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)

### **OUTGOING CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS TO COUNCIL**

Councillor Thomas A J Pettengell, outgoing Chairman of the County Council, made a short address, during which he referred to his enjoyment in meeting the residents of Nottinghamshire, especially the volunteers. He thanked Members and Officers for the support which he had received from them, particularly in relation to his chosen charity the Fire fighters charity for whom £7,500 had been raised. He also thanked his wife and daughters who had acted as consorts for the year.

#### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was moved by Councillor Bruce Laughton, seconded by Councillor Alan Rhodes:-

#### **RESOLVED: 2011/031**

That Councillor Keith Walker be elected Chairman of the Nottinghamshire County Council until the annual meeting 2012.

Arising from the above resolution, Councillor Walker made the prescribed Declaration of Acceptance of Office, was invested with the Chairman's Chain of Office and assumed the chair. Thereafter, Councillor Walker's portrait was unveiled by the Chief Executive.

### **INCOMING CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS TO THE COUNCIL**

Councillor Walker addressed the Council, thanking members for the opportunity to perform the civic role for the County Council. He indicated that his chosen charity for the year would be the British Legion.

### **RETIRING CHAIRMAN – VOTE OF THANKS**

At the invitation of the newly-elected Chairman, Councillor Philip Owen paid tribute to Councillor Pettengell's contribution to Nottinghamshire's civic life, thanking him for his work as Chairman.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Alan Rhodes, who articulated Members' appreciation and congratulations for Councillor Pettengell's successful year of office.

### **RESOLVED: 2011/032**

That the County Council's thanks for Councillor Pettengell's work as its Chairman during 2010-11 be recorded.

### **PAST CHAIRMAN'S BADGE OF OFFICE**

Further to the above resolution, the Chairman of the County Council presented to Councillor Pettengell his Past Chairman's Badge of Office and acknowledged his work during the year.

## **2. APPOINTMENT OF A VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The appointment of Councillor Carol Pepper as Vice-Chairman was moved by Councillor David Taylor and seconded by Councillor Jim Creamer.

During their speeches, both Councillors spoke of Councillor Pepper's long standing work in the local community; that she worked tirelessly in support of her community and was able to leave the politics at the door at the end of a meeting.

### **RESOLVED: 2011/033**

That Councillor Carol Pepper be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Nottinghamshire County Council until the Annual Meeting 2012.

Arising from the above Resolution, Councillor Pepper made the prescribed Declaration of Acceptance of Office, was invested with the Vice-Chairman's chain and took her new place alongside the Chairman.

Councillor Pepper thanked Members for appointing her as Vice-Chairman.

### **3. MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED: 2010/034**

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the County Council held on 31 March 2011 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bob Cross, V H Dobson, Ken Rigby and Parry Tsimbiridis

### **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **6. RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF GROUPS**

Councillor Carol Pepper introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/035 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Chris Barnfather.

#### **RESOLVED: 2011/035**

- (1) that the membership of the political Groups be noted.
- (2) that, in accordance with Standing Orders, the Officers of the Groups be recognised.

### **7. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**

Councillor Carol Pepper introduced the report, drew Members attention to the corrections to paragraph 20d and paragraph 25 within the recommendations in the report which had been circulated at the meeting and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/036 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Chris Barnfather.

#### **RESOLVED: 2011/036**

1. That only the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members be members of Cabinet and have a vote, with Deputy Cabinet Members being non-voting members. Any other Members will be able to attend, and only one member from each of the opposition groups will be entitled to speak on each agenda item. Any other Member wishing to speak can only do so in exceptional circumstances with the permission of the Chair.
  
2. (a) that the Council re-establish the following Committees and Sub-Committees of Council with their existing terms of reference and with the membership shown but that the terms of reference of the Appeal Committee be amended to include hearing appeals by private, voluntary and independent sector providers of funded early years education provision against any decision by officers of the County Council to remove them from the Nottinghamshire directory of providers, or to refuse to include them in the directory:-

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Conservative Group</b>	<b>Labour Group</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat Group</b>	<b>Independent Group</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>STANDARDS</b>	11	4	1	1	1	4 Non Elected Independent Members
<b>APPEALS</b>	11	6	2	2	1	-
<b>PLANNING &amp; LICENSING</b>	11	6	2	2	1	-
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	9	5	2	1	1	-
<b>AUDIT</b>	11	6	2	2	1	-
<b>PENSIONS</b>	9	5	2	1	1	-

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Conservative Group</b>	<b>Labour Group</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat Group</b>	<b>Independent Group</b>	<b>Other</b>
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<b>SENIOR STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE</b>	9 or 5	5 or 3	2 or 1	1 or 1	1 or 0	-
<b>RIGHTS OF WAY</b>	11	6	2	2	1	-
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	11	6	2	2	1	
<b>HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD</b>	18	3	1	1	-	* see paragraph 2d below
<b>LOCAL JOINT RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE</b>	6	3	1	1	1	-

- (b) That the membership of the Administration Committee comprise Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, Business Manager and the Deputy Business Manager of the Majority Group, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Property, Leaders of all three Opposition Groups and the Deputy Leader of the main Opposition Group
- (c) That the Senior Staffing Sub-Committee when considering issues relating to the Chief Executive and Corporate Directors will have a membership of 9 Members (5 Conservative Group, 2 Labour Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group, 1 Independent Group; and when the Sub-Committee considers issues relating to other officers the membership will be 5 Members (3 Conservative Group, 1 Labour Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group) and that no Member must sit on the Sub-Committee unless they have received appropriate training.
- (d) That in addition to the Councillor membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the following also be members of the Board;
- two representatives on behalf of all the District Councils;
  - the Director of Adult Services;
  - the Director of Children Services;
  - the Director of Public Health;
  - one representative of Local HealthWatch;
  - one representative from each of the 6 GP Consortia;
  - one representative from the NHS Commissioning Board,
- (e) That the Council make the following appointments of Chair and Vice-Chair until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2012, it being noted that the appointment of a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Senior Staffing Sub-Committee shall be a matter for that Committee:-

	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Vice-Chair</b>
Administration	Leader	Leader of the Main Opposition Group
Appeals	Cllr David Taylor	Cllr Sheila Place
Audit	Cllr Sheila Place	Cllr Mike Quigley MBE
Health and Wellbeing Board	Cllr Martin Suthers OBE	To be appointed annually by the Board
Personnel	Cllr Andy Stewart	Cllr Steve Carr
Pensions	Cllr Mike Cox	Cllr S Smedley MBE JP
Planning & Licensing	Cllr Chris Barnfather	Cllr Sybil Fielding
Rights of Way	Cllr Bruce Laughton	Cllr Stephen Garner
Standards Committee	Charles Daybell	Cllr Les Ward
Local Joint Resolutions Committee	Leader	

3. (a) That the Council re-establish the following overview and scrutiny committees with their existing terms of reference and with the membership shown; but that the Health & Wellbeing Standing Committee be renamed the Social Care & Health Standing Committee:-

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Conservatives</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Other</b>
Communities and the Environment Standing Committee	9	4	2	2	
Social Care and Health Standing Committee	9	4	2	2	
Education Standing Committee	9	4	2	2	Statutory Co-optees 1 rep of Church of England 1 rep of the RC Church 2 elected Parent Governors
Overview Committee	5	2	1	1	

- (b) that the Chairs and Vice-Chairs be appointed as indicated until the Annual Meeting in May 2012:-

	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Vice-Chair</b>
Communities and the Environment Standing Committee	Cllr Sue Saddington	Cllr Geoff Merry
Social Care and Health Standing Committee	Cllr Ged Clarke	Cllr Fiona Asbury
Education Standing Committee	Cllr Liz Yates	Cllr John Allin
Overview Committee	Cllr Joyce Bosnjak	Cllr Brian Wombwell Cllr Martin Wright

- (c) That the following Statutory Co-optees be appointed to attend and participate in meetings of the Education Standing Select Committee and other meetings as required by law:-

- 1 representative of the Church of England
- 1 representative of the Roman Catholic Church
- 2 elected Parent Governors

4. (a) that, subject to similar resolutions being taken by the relevant other authorities, Joint Committees be established as follows:-

	<b>NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL</b>				
<b>JOINT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>TOTAL NO OF COUNCILLORS</b>	<b>CONSERVATIVE</b>	<b>LABOUR</b>	<b>LIBERAL DEMOCRAT</b>	<b>INDEPENDENT</b>
Jt City/County Health Scrutiny	8	4	2	1	1
Jt Cttee for Appointments to the Nottinghamshire Police Authority	3	2	1	0	0
Joint Cttee on Strategic Planning and Transport	4	2	1	1	0
Greater Nottingham Light-Rapid Transit Advisory Committee	5	3	1	1	

and that Councillor Mel Shepherd MBE be appointed Vice-Chair of the Joint City/County Health Scrutiny Committee for the ensuing year.

- (b) That the Joint LAA Scrutiny Committee with District and Borough Councils in Nottinghamshire be discontinued.



5. That the Corporate Parenting Panel be re-established with 9 members (5 Conservative Group, 2 Labour Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group, and 1 Independent Group).
6. That the pool of 16 members (8 Conservative Group, 4 Labour Group, 2 Liberal Democrat Group and 2 Independent Group) be re-established from which a Mental Health Guardianship Panel can be formed, to make decisions on renewal and discharge of guardianship under the Mental Health Act 1983.
7. That the 12 places on the Combined Fire Authority be allocated between the groups as follows;-
  - Conservative Group 6
  - Labour Group 3
  - Liberal Democrats Group 2
  - Independents Group 1
8. (a) That the appointment of members of the political groups to committees, sub-committees and joint committees be undertaken by the Team Manager, Governance and Scrutiny on behalf of the Chief Executive (the Proper Officer) acting in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Local Government Act 2000 the relevant Statutory Regulations and the Council's Standing Orders.
- (b) That the Team Manager, Governance and Scrutiny be authorised to act on behalf of the Chief Executive to appoint people as statutory or non-statutory co-optees to membership of committees or joint committees when required .

## **8. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Paul Simpson the new Director of Finance and thanked Mr Alan Sumby who was leaving the Authority shortly for all his hard work.

## **9. PETITIONS**

## **(a) PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS**

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

1. Councillor June Stendall – Petition requesting that Winthorpe Street, Mansfield no longer form part of the bus route used by the Stagecoach number 6 service
2. Councillor June Stendall – Petition to safeguard the bus stops on Winthorpe Street, Mansfield
3. Councillor June Stendall – Petition requesting the removal of the Resident's Parking Scheme on Marriott Avenue, Mansfield
4. Councillor June Stendall – Petition requesting the removal of Resident's Parking Scheme on Botany Avenue, Mansfield
5. Councillor Fiona Asbury – Petition to keep the school busses running from Huthwaite to Ashfield Comprehensive
6. Councillor John Allin – Petition requesting a pedestrian crossing for Spion Kop, near Warsop
7. Councillor John Cottee – Petition regarding improvement of road safety when exiting Dale Road and Rose Hill in Keyworth
8. Councillor John Clarke – Petition regarding improvement of road safety on Curzon Street, Netherfield
9. Councillor Steve Carroll – Petition against the withdrawal of the school bus number 408 that services the Croft Primary School and Ashfield School

### **RESOLVED: 2011/037**

That the petitions be referred to the appropriate Cabinet Members for consideration in accordance with Standing Orders.

## **(b) REPORT BACK ON PETITIONS**

The Chairman informed Council that there was a correction to the report on page 8 – the petition against the reduction in the opening hours of Kimberley Library had been presented by Councillor Ken Rigby and not Councillor Pettengell as printed in the Council book.

### **RESOLVED: 2010/038**

That the contents and proposed action of the report back on petitions received on 31 March 2011 be noted and the petitioners be informed accordingly.

## **10. QUESTIONS**

#### **(a) QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7.1**

Eight questions were received as follows:-

1. from Councillor Chris Winterton about Regional Growth Fund Initiative (Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts replied)
2. from Councillor Kevin Greaves concerning fines for late library returns for over 60s (Councillor John Cottey replied)
3. from Councillor S Smedley MBE JP regarding replacement for the School Admissions Forum (Councillor Philip Owen replied)
4. from Councillor Sue Saddington about utilities companies trenching work (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)
5. from Councillor Chris Winterton concerning cost of services for the elderly (Councillor Kevin Rostance replied)
6. from Councillor Kevin Greaves regarding household waste recycling centres (Councillor Richard Butler replied)
7. from Councillor S Smedley MBE JP about cutting of grass verges (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)
8. from Councillor Chris Winterton concerning pay freeze for local government workers (Councillor Andy Stewart replied)

The full response to these questions under Standing Order 7.1 are set out in Appendix A to these Minutes.

During question 5, Council adjourned from 12.30 pm until 2 pm for lunch.

#### **(b) QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7.2**

One question was received as follows:-

1. from Councillor Bruce Laughton about the future of Southwell Police Station (Councillor Mike Quigley MBE, Vice-Chair of Nottinghamshire Police Authority replied)

The full response to this question under Standing Order 7.2 is set out in Appendix B to these Minutes.

#### **11. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS**

**(a) CABINET MEMBERS**

The Leader presented the reports. The reports were seconded by the Deputy Leader

**RESOLVED 2011/39**

That the portfolio reports be noted.

**(b) CHAIR OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

Councillor Joyce Bosnjak presented the report. The report was seconded by Councillor Ged Clarke.

**RESOLVED 2011/040**

That the report be noted.

**12. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY 2011 AND POST 16  
TRANSPORT POLICY 2011/2012**

Councillor Philip Owen introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/041 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Richard Jackson.

**RESOLVED: 2011/041**

1. That the Home to School Transport Policy 2011 be approved
2. That the Post 16 Transport Policy 2011/2012 be approved

**13. SCHOOL CAPITAL STRATEGY 2011/12 to 2013/14**

Councillor Philip Owen introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/042 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Reg Adair

**RESOLVED: 2011/042**

1. That the principles for the prioritisation of capital investment in the school estate as described in **Appendix 2** of this report be approved
2. That the specific capital allocation of £47.9 million as set out in paragraph 31 of the report be approved

3. That the overall programme of £82.4 million for years 2011/14 as set out in paragraph 32 of the report be approved
4. That the programme of proposed refurbishment projects as set out in Appendix 6 of the report be approved, subject to latest estimated cost reports as appropriate.

#### **14A. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2010 – 11**

Councillor Joyce Bosnjak introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/043 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Ged Clarke.

#### **RESOLVED: 2011/043**

That the Annual Report of Scrutiny for 2010 – 11 be received.

#### **14B. JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2010 – 11**

Councillor Mel Shepherd MBE introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/044 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Stephen Garner.

#### **RESOLVED: 2011/044**

That the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee Report for 2010 – 11 be received.

#### **15. COUNCILLORS DIVISIONAL FUND**

Councillor Reg Adair introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/045 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Suthers

#### **RESOLVED: 2011/045**

That the revised guidance for the Councillors' Divisional Fund, as detailed in the report, be approved

#### **16. DATA PROTECTION ACT**

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/046 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Suthers

**RESOLVED: 2011/046**

That the Policy set out in Appendix A of the report be approved

**17. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/047 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Chris Barnfather

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Alan Rhodes and seconded by Councillor Steve Carroll as follows:-

“Appendix 1

Remove paragraph 18.2 from heading **18. ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING** in its entirety”

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

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Alan Rhodes and seconded by Councillor Steve Carroll as follows:-

“Appendix 2

Amend paragraph 1.1 from heading **1. MEETINGS** to read:

- 1.1 The Annual Meeting of Council shall be held in May and in a year of ordinary elections of councillors to the Council on the third Thursday in May; meetings shall commence at 10.30am.

Amend paragraph 1.7 from heading **1. MEETINGS** to read:

- 1.7 With the exception of the Annual Budget Meeting, meetings of the Council shall end at midnight unless it appears to the Chairman or person presiding that the meeting will finish shortly after that time. Any remaining business shall then stand over as uncompleted business until the next meeting.”

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

The original motion was then put to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared that the motion was carried and it was:-

**RESOLVED: 2011/047**

1. That the County Council's Constitution be updated in accordance with Appendix A of the report.
2. That the County Council's Constitution be updated in accordance with Appendix B of the report.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 4.57 pm

**CHAIRMAN**

M\_19MAY11





## **APPENDIX A**

### **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2011**

#### **QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7.1**

##### **Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Chris Winterton**

North Nottinghamshire will miss out on the first round of funding in the Regional Growth Fund initiative; in fact, only 65 jobs are likely to be created in Nottinghamshire as a whole from the initiative.

When you consider that over 4,000 jobs are being lost in the public sector, the prospects for employment for many are looking thin.

Will the Leader or Business Champion please now put the case for more investment in the Nottinghamshire Economy to the Minister responsible?

##### **Response by Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts, Leader of the Council:**

"I never stop campaigning, with our Business Champion Councillor Girling, for more investment in the Nottinghamshire economy. It's what Conservatives do naturally, and I would hope that any responsible council administration would do the same.

Councillor Winterton seems to be following the line of his national Labour colleagues in talking down our economic prospects at every opportunity, which is ironic, considering that the role they played in leaving this country with a debt interest of £120 million a day.

He of course was a member of the last Labour administration at County Hall and if he was so concerned about public sector job losses, perhaps he should have done more to ensure that this authority's budget was sustainable. But I'm not going to revisit the budget debate today, I can assure him we have done everything possible to redeploy staff and keep compulsory redundancies to a minimum.

I have to say, I'm more interested in looking positively at what this local authority can do to help business promote the recovery, as we promised in our Conservative manifesto.

With my colleagues I have been having ongoing dialogues with the business community across Nottinghamshire, covering everything from start-up businesses and entrepreneurs through to some of the county's most important companies such as Wilkinson's, Boots, Laing O'Rourke and Hardstuffs.

The Enterprise Zone was announced by the Government in April at Alliance Boots site in Beeston, which also falls within the City boundary as well. I

attended the formal launch by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister with my D2N2 LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) Board colleagues. Once established, the Enterprise Zone will deliver a real boost to the local economy and provide significant numbers of highly skilled jobs on the Beeston site. But the impact will also be felt across the County, with opportunities for a range of companies and supply chains to benefit from new investment and activity on the Beeston site. The business rate uplift from the Enterprise Zone will be managed by the D2N2 LEP Board and will be used for investment in economic growth across the whole of the County.

I continue to support the D2N2 Board and business leaders in their efforts to drive economic growth and investment in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, and that includes both the cities of Derby and Nottingham as well. Tourism is a key focus and the County Council is supporting Experience Nottinghamshire with its plans to improve the tourism offer to the County. In addition, we are currently leading an initiative we'll see the roll-out of high speed broadband to rural communities and those with poor access across the County, with particular focus on access for business. The project will build on our existing investment in the 'One County, One Network' programme. The D2N2 Board is also in the process of refining its approach to growth sectors and high growth businesses, and we should begin to see the benefits of this in the very near future.

The D2N2 Board gives Nottinghamshire a direct route in to Government, and has so far been effective in lobbying for additional investment in our area (as evidenced the Enterprise Zone) and this is led by business, and not local authorities. Strategic programme bids to secure future investment through Round Two of the Regional Growth Fund are being developed in advance of the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

Locally, we continue to talk to the business community about ways in which we can work together to stimulate economic growth and job creation and that includes pursuing the A453 on every occasion. Councillor Girling chairs the Nottinghamshire Business Engagement Group, which brings together representative bodies from across the City and the County to discuss the County Council's role in economic growth.

I have a programme of visits to the largest companies with the Chief Executive, where similar issues are discussed. I am confident that business leaders are powerful advocates for investment in the Nottinghamshire economy both within their peer networks and Government circles.

I have no doubt Councillor Winterton and his Labour colleagues will continue to criticise the Government, to continue to criticise us, and exploit difficult decisions we have to take to play down achievements and it's a shame, a real shame that they failed to put forward an alternative budget to policies of their own.

The truth is that we are making good progress with the support of business, and the benefits of this work will become more apparent as these policies develop."

**Question to the Cabinet Member for Culture & Community from Councillor Kevin Greaves**

Can the Cabinet Member for Culture & Community please tell us how much extra revenue will be generated now he has decided to impose fines for late library returns for the over 60s or shall we say old age pensioners?

Will there be any dispensation available for those individuals who may incur fines while they're ill in hospital or housebound, with no way of returning their library materials on time? And perhaps those who are not aware of the changes in policy, that are currently holding overdue books, and quite unaware that they are building up fines?

**Response by Councillor John Cottey, Cabinet Member for Culture & Community:**

The introduction of the overdue charges for over 60's for the late return of library items was not introduced to increase the level of revenue, but to improve the overall circulation and availability of the stock.

The majority of items have a loan period of 3 weeks, with the option to renew it a further 3 times so that's 9 more weeks making a total of 12 without bringing the item into a library as long as it has not been requested by another customer.

You state in your question that there's more residents holding Library Books which are overdue and therefore they should have been returned as soon as possible. This means that those residents holding on to the books that other people want to borrow cannot borrow. I can also inform you that the books can be returned to any library, including City Libraries.

All customers can renew their items, by telephone on a 24 hour, 7 days a week phone number just by leaving your name and your library number and you can do that just by picking the phone up you can do it on our call centres 8am in the morning to 8pm at night and Saturday mornings, by telephone to any library, in person at any Library or through the internet. Therefore, there is no reason to pay overdue charges unless a customer decides to keep the item beyond the loan period.

For customers who are ill or housebound there is no charge. In fact, residents who are house bound who require library books we offer a specific service to that person's need.

Information about the changes were made available to the public in early April before the implementation on the 3rd May 2011. Library staff will use their discretion during the implementation period but have been reminding customers since early April of the changes that are coming in May. If they do not renew or

return BOOKS they have BORROWED, charges will not start until the 24<sup>th</sup> May being 3 weeks after the initial time so residents have had eight weeks since the announcement before charging starts. I would imagine having seen some political literature where it says about libraries that if any members wish to use the fact that over 60's are being charged I would remind them that our libraries for the use of computers and the internet are free, and that's unlike Labour controlled City who charge customers for the use of the internet.

So, the short answer to the question Councillor Greaves is that we are not looking to increase revenue but increase the re-circulation of the books and other items for our customers to borrow."

**Question to the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People's Services from Councillor S Smedley JP MBE**

With school admissions forums facing the axe under the Coalition's Education Bill, can the Cabinet Member tell us what progress the County Council has made in preparing a replacement system which will meet the obligations of providing a process "as fair and as simple as possible for parents and pupils, setting up local arrangements which work for that area," as stated in the White Paper?

**Response by Councillor Philip Owen, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People's Services:**

"The proposals in the Education Bill do indeed withdraw the statutory requirement for a School Admissions Forum.

However, at its last meeting there was comprehensive agreement by members of the Forum that it should continue to convene for the next 12 months in the first instance. Membership, processes and its longer term future would be reviewed to take account of the new draft Admissions Code which is imminent and in recognition of the increased diversity of school governance arrangements across the County.

Approval to this request was given by myself, following an approach by Councillor Chris Barnfather, the Chair of the School Admissions Forum on behalf of that Forum following its March 2011 meeting. Its next meeting is scheduled for June 2011. This approach is warmly welcomed as it further indicates the commitment and enthusiasm of schools to maintain and develop strong working relationships with the County Council, the Dioceses, and indeed each other on issues of mutual importance such as school admissions."

### **Question to the Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways from Councillor Susan Saddington**

A recommendation arising from the Communities & Environment Standing Committee's recent Highways Review was to campaign - through elected members and the Local Government Association, known as the LGA - for utility companies to be legally required to meet the cost of reducing the lifespan of the highway by the trenching work.

Does the Cabinet Member share my satisfaction that the LGA have taken up this call and is proposing to the Government that utility companies be required to pay a bond or a deposit in advance of road works to make it easier for the councils to recoup the cost of damage caused by inferior road repairs?

Would this not be an excellent motivation for utility companies to get the job right the first time and could it mean local authorities having to spend far less time pursuing compensation for poor work?

### **Response by Councillor Richard Jackson, Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways:**

"I do of course share her satisfaction. It is encouraging that the LGA have responded to the concerns raised and taken an interest in this issue.

The current national arrangements for monitoring utility works are too complex and also very demanding on time input from limited and ever decreasing resources in local authorities. I therefore welcome initiatives to seek alternative approaches which may provide local authorities with clearer and better powers to ensure that our valuable highway assets are protected from damage in this way.

New legislation was provided within the Traffic Management Act of 2004 to provide the means of introducing requirements for resurfacing roads following utility work but this has not been brought into effect as yet. It is therefore clearly time to press for this area to be moved forward, especially to tighten the means by which the reduction in the life of roads can be compensated for by those promoting the work which digs them up. Any mechanism which encourages utility companies to make a right first time approach is welcomed and officers will be continuing to press for changes in the legislation to improve this.

The County Council will continue to ensure that inspections of Utility reinstatements take place and that poor performing utility operators are targeted as part of the inspection process."

**Question to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health from Councillor Chris Winterton**

“Disabled people in Nottinghamshire have been the hardest hit by the cuts being imposed on them by the County Council. While we recognise that funding has risen in areas because of the Council’s statutory obligations to provide the services, does he recognise that the extra charges imposed on frail elderly folk for meals on wheels, day care costs and residential care are immoral.

And can he provide an undertaking that the most vulnerable members of society will face no more price hikes in this service that they rely on?”

**Response by Councillor Kevin Rostance, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health:**

“I thank Councillor Winterton for his question and also his endorsement, both explicit and implicit in the wording of his question, that this Administration has over the last two years consistently increased the level of funding of services for those who are the most vulnerable in our Society.

And he is also right to make that acknowledgement.

This year we will spend through our Supporting People Budget almost £22 million pounds, which is approximately £5 million pounds more than we have been allocated by Central Government, and again next year we will spend in excess of our grant.

We are continuing to invest in our Re-enablement Services, providing short term intensive support to people who may have been discharged from hospital but who may feel unable to go home. Our Staff work with clients to build their confidence and skills allowing them to live once more in their own home.

As my report today shows our investment in our Outreach Extra Care pilot scheme in Bassetlaw, using a combination of 24 hour responsive home care service, assistive technology and housing related support is providing an alternative to traditional long term residential care for older people.

Our continued investment in technology is also designed to help clients with dementia and those with physical difficulties, helping them continue to remain in their own homes.

There are the many other examples I can name to demonstrate this Administrations’ commitment to the vulnerable of Nottinghamshire.

While this administration is required to save £150 million pounds over the next three years, a substantial element of those savings will be re-invested to provide more care and support services for adults with disabilities and our most

vulnerable people. For Adult Social Care and Health this means that we will spend an additional £44.8 million pounds over the next four years.

Now Councillor Winterton in his question makes reference to extra charges being levied for meals on wheels, day care services and residential care costs.

Let me put the extra charges into perspective.

The cost of a week's care in one of our Homes is at present £751, yet the previous administration has for a number of years subsidised care to a group of clients who under the national criteria are deemed able to pay the full price for care.

During the year 2009/10 we levied a charge of £400, which is a subsidy still of £351 or if you prefer it another way £18,252 per year. That level of subsidy would for example pay for over 1000 hours of home care.

Councillor Winterton talks of who will pay for the increase. I can assure him that those, who after assessment can afford to pay will be asked to pay. Councillor Winterton also questions the rise in meal costs. Now let me make a statement that I believe our meals service is First Rate. The meal which can be purchased, frozen, chilled or hot provides a third of the daily calories needed for a healthy life.

The cost of the meal, labour and ingredients etc. is currently £2.23, that's what it costs to us, the cost of delivering a hot meal an additional £2.80, a total of £5.03. Our current charge to the customer is £3.95, which is a subsidy of £1.08 per meal. Given that we will sell over 390,800 meals it represents a subsidy of over £420,000.

While many may complain I challenge Members opposite to find a meal, delivered your door at a time and is convenient to you at a price of £3.95.

Let us look at our Day Services. Users are assessed as needing to use our Day Services will, in my report be assessed for a personal budget. Therefore while they may have to make a financial contribution towards their Day Care the majority of the cost will be met from money we have put into their own personal budget.

In the last part of his question Councillor Winterton asks if I am able to provide an undertaking that there will be no further rises in care costs.

In an ideal world I would like to give him that assurance, but we do not live in an ideal World. In an ideal world we wouldn't have inflation. In an ideal world we wouldn't have people developing illness. In an ideal world the Coalition Government would not be saddled with the task of closing the £150 Billion pounds gap between what the Country earns and what the Country spends. A gap left by the previous Labour Government, BUT, an undertaking I can give him is this Administration will continue to fund, will continue to protect those of our

Society who need our care and who are our most vulnerable and to do so we will continue to redesign, re finance and re-evaluate our services ensuring they are fit for the 21st Century.”

**Question to the Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability from Councillor Kevin Greaves**

Will the Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability please confirm that no extra charges will be brought in for users of County Council run household waste recycling centres?

**Response by Councillor Richard Butler, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability:**

“Yes I can confirm to Councillor Greaves that there are currently no charges levied to the public for the use of the County Council’s Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC), and there are no current proposals to introduce any such charges.”

**Question to the Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways from Councillor Mrs S Smedley JP MBE**

Can the Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways comment on the very poor state of the highway verges in the County at present, following the decision to reduce the number of cuts for this year?

In light of the significant public concern over this matter, will the Cabinet Member look to reverse the original decision to reduce the number of grass cuts?

**Response by Councillor Richard Jackson, Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways:**

“In response to the comments regarding the condition of highway verges I think it would be useful to clarify the current policy of the Council in respect of grass cutting frequencies across the County.

In urban areas the grass that the County Council is responsible for is now cut four times a year. This is a reduction of only two cuts a year from previous years and as Councillor Smedley will appreciate the current budgetary pressures that the Authority faces has meant that all services provided by this Council have had to be reviewed with a view to making savings where ever possible. However I am pleased to report that in rural areas the County Council has been able to maintain the frequency of grass cutting with two cuts being carried out as in previous years.



I should also like to clarify that the County Council legally only has to cut highway verges for road safety and for visibility reasons. The changes to the Authority's policy have taken account of this and the current frequencies of grass cutting should ensure that safety and visibility is satisfactorily maintained throughout the year. However in those locations where this is not the case I am pleased to highlight that the policy also allows additional grass cutting to be carried out to address such matters.

For those residents and businesses who may wish to cut the grassed highway areas outside their properties to a higher standard I will shortly be issuing some simple guidance to assist them in doing this safely.

Residents minded to cut their own verges will always achieve a better finish, whether we cut 6 times a year as under Councillor Smedley's regime or 4 times a year as under the current regime. It is worth noting also that during the Big Budget conversation a high percentage of respondents were willing to cut their own grass verges.

Whilst I appreciate that the current frequencies of grass cutting in urban areas may not meet with everyone's expectations the level of service provided by the County Council still allows us to fulfil our legal obligations within the available budget."

**Question to the Cabinet Member for Personnel & Performance from Councillor Chris Winterton**

The Cabinet Member for Personnel and Performance will be aware that staff are currently working to a pay freeze.

With inflation set to be around 5% for the next two years by current estimates, does he think it is reasonable for the NJC (National Joint Council) to recommend a continuation of the pay freeze for local government workers?

**Response by Councillor Andy Stewart, Cabinet Member for Personnel & Performance:**

"Members will be aware that the annual pay award for staff working in local government is negotiated at national level.

This Council has no discretion in this matter and has to implement what has been agreed nationally as part of national pay terms and conditions."



## **APPENDIX B**

### **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2011**

#### **QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7.2**

##### **Question to the Chair of Nottinghamshire Police Authority from Councillor Bruce Laughton**

Would the Chairman of Nottinghamshire Police Authority explain why the people of Southwell were consulted only two weeks on the future of their Police Station, in the middle of a local election?

The Police approached local businesses looking for alternative free accommodation before even notifying the Town Council. Does he agree with me that this was not an appropriate way to tackle this matter?

Could he make a statement to the Council today on the future of Southwell Police Station?

##### **Response by Councillor Mike Quigley MBE, Vice-Chair of the Nottinghamshire Police Authority:**

“Firstly may I reassure you that the Nottinghamshire Police Authority always takes responsibilities regarding community consultation and engagement very seriously, using the feedback from diverse series of consultation events to shape the way in which local policing is provided. The Authority is fully committed to consulting local partners, stakeholders and residents on any element of the ongoing strategic change programme that may have an impact on them.

We have been clear that in order to meet budget reductions and sustain the significant performance improvements we’ve seen in the last year, there will be changes in the way those services are delivered.

As such, thanks to advance planning, changes are already being implemented designed to help us save costs and improve efficiency, such as the recent move to two Divisions on which, as members will recall, local partners were consulted. We are also rationalising the number of vehicles used by the Force.

There are two strands of work being undertaken by the Force in relation to Police Stations and bases.

The consultation referred to in Southwell was carried out by Nottinghamshire Police and focused purely on the ‘front counter’ – the only public facing part of the building – to establish what local councillors felt about the proposed changes to the front counter working practices. This is part of an ongoing programme reviewing all the active front counters across Nottinghamshire Police.

Due to the concerns and confusion being generated by the work at such a sensitive time, the Police Authority and the Police agreed to halt any consultation on the front counter project until after the elections. It is anticipated that the consultation will now be conducted within the next few weeks.

All Police stations and bases are being reviewed in the light of the Neighbourhood policing plan, improved joint working with partner organisations and advances in technology. We need to deliver services differently if front line police numbers are to be maintained and protected as we've committed ourselves.

This is no secret as we have set out in the Policing Plan 2011 to 2015 that all Police stations and police bases are under review, and yes Councillor Laughton that does include Southwell. This has been widely reported upon and publicised.

Last autumn a comprehensive review of all buildings and sites owned, or leased, by the Police Authority commenced. The aim was to assess their future viability in the light of budget reductions and the need to change the way that Nottinghamshire Police operates, to deliver a more effective service.

Putting this into perspective, at the time Nottinghamshire Police had more than 70 buildings across the county, including more than 50 operational bases. This is in contrast to neighbouring Leicestershire, where a force of similar size has around half the number of buildings.

As a result of the review, some sites were identified that were no longer providing value for money. In March this year we announced plans to close these and co-locate neighbourhood officers into Council buildings or shops.

This move will bring the police service closer to the communities we serve with little or no financial on-cost to the force. More importantly to local people, it puts officers back in the heart of local communities, increases their visibility and makes them more accessible to the public.

At the current time the Estates Review Team is considering its options for phase two of the modernisation process, and no doubt will include any plans relating to the future of Southwell Police Station.

Any such plans will be subject to approval by the Police Authority, who will undertake formal and extensive consultation with local elected members, other stakeholders and the general public.

However, as you already know the Police Authority has pledged that no police contact point will close until a suitable alternative solution has been agreed. It is on this basis that some Police officers have been speaking to local partners about identifying potential suitable alternative bases."