

Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 22nd September 2011 (10.00 am – 8.15 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Keith Walker (Chairman)

Carol Pepper (Vice Chairman)

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Hon. Alderman Martin Brandon-Bravo OBE

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mick Burrows	(Chief Executive)
Jayne Francis-Ward	(Assistant Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer)
Cherry Dunk	(Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection)
David Pearson	(Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection)
Anthony May (part)	(Children, Families & Cultural Services)
Derek Higton (part)	(Children, Families & Cultural Services)
Tim Gregory	(Environment & Resources)
Robert Knott	(Environment & Resources)
Sara Allmond	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Carl Bilbey	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Claire Dixon	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Martin Done	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Sally Dury	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Chris Holmes	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Greg Michael	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Lyndsey Parnell	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)

OPENING PRAYER

Upon the Council convening, prayers were led by the Venerable Air Vice Marshal Robin Turner.

Members stood in silence in memory of former County Councillor Fred Riddell

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED: 2011/065

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the County Council held on 30th June 2011 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The following apologies for absence were received:-

Medical/Illness

- Councillor Fiona Asbury
- Councillor Thomas A J Pettengell

Other

- Councillor David Taylor

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

(a) Fred Riddell

The Chairman and Councillors Mrs Kay Cutts, Alan Rhodes, Stan Heptinstall MBE and S Smedley MBE JP spoke in tribute to the late Fred Riddell.

(b) Agenda Order

The Chairman changed the order of the agenda to take the question to the Chair of the Police Authority at 11.30am when the Chair of the Police Authority arrived.

(c) Presentation of Awards

Councillor Stuart Wallace presented a certificate of appreciation which had been presented by the Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps to 1260 (Newark) Squadron. The certificate was in appreciation for promotion of international understanding, good will and friendship through support of the International Air Cadet Exchange. The Chairman was presented with the certificate.

The Chairman congratulated Joanne Stains who had won the Diploma in Consumer Affairs and Trading Standards Prize, which is awarded by the Trading Standards Institute to the top graduate in the Country. Councillor Murphy and the Chairman presented the award to Joanne Stains.

Councillor Mick Murphy presented an award to the Scambusters Team from the Anti Counterfeiting Group which recognised the work of the Team. Paul Gretton from Trading Standards attended the meeting on behalf of the Scambusters Team and was presented the award by the Chairman.

Councillor Mick Murphy presented the Emergency Planning Society Resilience Award which recognised the work of the Emergency Planning Team. Edward Shaw from the Emergency Planning Team attended the

meeting on behalf of the Team and was presented the award by the Chairman.

Councillor Andy Stewart presented the Food for Life Silver Catering Award which had been won by the Schools Catering Service. Nottinghamshire Schools Catering Service was the first authority to be awarded the silver mark for introducing the standards across both primary and secondary schools. The Chairman was presented with the certificate.

(d) Constituency Issues

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

Councillor Keith Longdon – Opening of Eastwood's new youth centre

Councillor Sybil Fielding – Traveller issues in Shireoaks

5. PETITIONS

(a) PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

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

1. Councillor June Stendall and Councillor Chris Winterton – Petition requesting widening of the service road on Ladybrook Lane, Mansfield
2. Councillor June Stendall – Petition requesting Off Street Parking on Westfield Lane, Mansfield
3. Councillor Chris Winterton – Petition regarding the reduction in the Supporting People Grant in Mansfield
4. Councillor Chris Winterton – Petition against the cuts to services and organisations which will affect social care in Mansfield
5. Councillor Alan Rhodes - Petition requesting a meeting to discuss options to deter the parking problems on Inglemere Close, Worksop

RESOLVED: 2011/066

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

(b) REPORT BACK ON PETITIONS

RESOLVED: 2011/067

That the contents and proposed actions in the report back on petitions received on 30th June 2011 be noted and the petitioners be informed accordingly.

6. QUESTIONS

(a) QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7.1

Eight questions had been received as follows:-

1. from Councillor Sybil Fielding about school walking routes and bus provision (Councillor Philip Owen replied)
2. from Councillor Alan Rhodes concerning allocation of broadband money (Councillor Keith Girling replied)
3. from Councillor Eric Kerry regarding expenditure on highway repairs (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)
4. from Councillor Chris Winterton about the refurbishments at County Hall (Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts replied)
5. from Councillor Alan Rhodes concerning planning for winter weather conditions (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)
6. from Councillor John Knight regarding culture and heritage in Nottinghamshire (Councillor John Cottee replied)
7. from Councillor Bruce Laughton about the Ollerton roundabout (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)
8. from Councillor Kevin Greaves concerning railway station ticket offices (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)

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

(b) QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7.2

One question had been received from Councillor Chris Winterton about contacting Command Officers at the Police (Councillor Jon Collins, Chair of the Police Authority replied)

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

7. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

(a) CABINET MEMBERS

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts presented the reports. The reports were seconded by the Councillor Martin Suthers OBE.

RESOLVED 2011/68

That the reports from Cabinet Members be noted.

During consideration of these reports, Council adjourned from 12.25 pm until 1.45 pm for lunch.

After lunch, Councillor Cottee announced that it had just been confirmed that Nottinghamshire's Trent Bridge would host two Tests each year until 2016 including Ashes Tests in 2013 and 2015.

(b) CHAIR OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

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

RESOLVED 2011/069

That the report be noted.

8. AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE – SALE OF RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE AS A CONTINUING RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

Councillor Kevin Rostance introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/070 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Stuart Wallace.

Following comments raised during the debate, Councillor Reg Adair confirmed that there was a factual error in the valuation report (listed as a background paper), relating to the site area of Bramwell. The correct area was 3.4 acres, not 0.89 of an acre stated in the report. He stated that, however, the principle basis

of the valuation was the number of beds in the homes. Therefore the error had no impact on the valuation.

He added that the valuer Lambert Smith Hampton had been contacted and they had confirmed the following in writing:-

“I can confirm that the above will have no impact on the values stated within our Valuation Report dated 9th September 2011 and the sale of the homes passes the best value test outlined within Technical Appendix 06/03: Local Government Act 1972 general disposal consent (England) 2003.”

Copies of this statement were circulated to all Members.

Following a debate the motion was put to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman indicated that it was carried.

The requisite number of Members requested a recorded vote and it was ascertained that the following 33 Members voted ‘**For**’ the motion.

‘FOR’

Reg Adair
Chris Barnfather
Victor Bobo
Richard Butler
Allen Clarke
Ged Clarke
L B Cooper
John Cottee
Michael J Cox
Mrs Kay Cutts
V H Dobson
Keith Girling
John M Hemsall
Richard Jackson
Rod Kempster
Eric Kerry
Bruce Laughton

Mick Murphy
Philip Owen
Carol Pepper
Mike Quigley MBE
Mrs Wendy Quigley
Kevin Rostance
Mrs Sue Saddington
Mel Shepherd MBE
Mark Spencer MP
Andy Stewart
Martin Suthers OBE
Lynn Sykes
Keith Walker
Stuart Wallace
Gordon Wheeler
Liz Yates

The following 29 Members voted ‘**Against**’ the motion.

‘AGAINST’

John Allin
Joyce Bosnjak
Steve Carr

Steve Carroll
John Clarke
Jim Creamer

Sybil Fielding
Stephen Garner
Michelle Gent
Glynn Gilfoyle
Kevin Greaves
Stan Heptinstall MBE
John Knight
Keith Longdon
Rachel Madden
Geoff Merry
Sheila Place
Darrell Pulk

Alan Rhodes
Ken Rigby
S Smedley MBE JP
June Stendall
Parry Tsimbiridis
Gail Turner
Les Ward
Chris Winterton
Brian Wombwell
Martin Wright
Jason Zadrozny

There were no Members who 'abstained' from the vote.

The Chairman declared that the motion was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2011/070

1. That the 6 homes identified below be sold to Runwood Homes subject to the completion of the Implementation Plan which includes consultation with employees;
 1. Bramwell
 2. Braywood Gardens
 3. Maun View
 4. Jubilee Court
 5. Leawood Manor
 6. Westwood
2. That the sums of £604,804.70 and £41,535 be approved for payment as per the Management Agreement to the Primary Care Trust for the termination of the management agreement at Bramwell for disturbance and relocation in return for the early surrender of the lease by the Primary Care Trust.

9. BUILDING ASPIRATION: WORKING TOGETHER TO TACKLE CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/071 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Philip Owen.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED: 2011/071**

1. That the Child and Family Poverty Strategy be approved
2. That following the annual review of the Child and Family Poverty Strategy in 2012/13, a report be presented to Council to update Members on progress.

10. THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PLAN 2011-14

Councillor Philip Owen introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/072 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Allen Clarke

It was unanimously **RESOLVED: 2011/072**

That the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14 be approved.

11. YOUNG CARERS STRATEGY FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Councillor Philip Owen introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/073 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Allen Clarke

It was unanimously **RESOLVED: 2011/073**

1. That the Young Carers Strategy, as attached as Appendix A to the report, be approved.
2. That a report detailing any proposed changes arising from the review of the Strategy be brought to Council in January 2013.

12. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2011/12

Councillor Reg Adair introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/074 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Chris Barnfather.

RESOLVED: 2011/074

That the report on Treasury Management activity for 2010/11 be received and noted.

13. PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT APPROACH AND PRACTICE

Councillor Kevin Rostance introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/075 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Stuart Wallace.

RESOLVED: 2011/075

1. that the County Council's approach to supported employment continues to move towards an individualised model, ensuring that employment opportunities are viable
2. that a 3 month period of consultation be commenced on the proposal to close Sherwood Industries and to close the County Horticulture and Work Training satellite sites at Balderton, Worksop and Sherwood Pines, after which a report be brought back to Full Council on the outcomes of the consultation and proposals for these services
3. that County Council redundancy, relocation and redeployment processes be applied for affected staff on an individual basis with additional support provided to disabled workers in order to ensure that those who wish to remain in employment can do so.

14. APPOINTMENT OF SECTION 151 OFFICER

Councillor Andy Stewart introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/076 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Reg Adair.

RESOLVED: 2011/076

That the appointment of Mr Paul Simpson as the Authority's Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer be confirmed.

15. TELL US ONCE

Councillor Martin Suthers OBE introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/077 below. He indicated that the system would now go live on 3rd November 2011

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mick Murphy.

RESOLVED: 2011/077

That the report be noted.

16. HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Councillor Martin Suthers OBE introduced the report and moved the motion in terms of the resolution 2011/078 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts

RESOLVED: 2011/078

1. That the Constitution be amended as set out in the report.
2. That the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board be amended as set out in the report.

17. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2010/11

Councillor Reg Adair introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/079 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Sheila Place

RESOLVED: 2011/079

1. That the contents of the Annual Governance Report be noted.
2. That the letter of representation be approved.
3. That the Statement of Accounts 2010/11 be approved.

**18. FORMAL RESOLUTION TO APPOINT ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE
AS A NOMINEE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE PROBATE REGISTRY**

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/080 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Suthers OBE.

RESOLVED: 2011/080

That the County Council's Assistant Chief Executive, Jayne Francis-Ward be appointed nominee of Nottinghamshire County Council for the purpose of taking out letters of administration of any estate in relation to which the County Council is a creditor.

19. CHANGE OF GOVERNANCE – BEESTON YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor Philip Owen introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/081 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Steve Carr

RESOLVED: 2011/081

That the proposed new Scheme of operation as set out in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report be approved.

20. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

MOTION ONE

Councillor Richard Jackson moved the motion in terms of resolution 2011/082 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts.

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

RESOLVED: 2011/082

“Given that the High Speed 2 Project is at least 20 years from fruition, this Council:-

- a) Recognises the vital importance of the Midland Main Line in providing rail connections to and from London for the businesses and residents of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and South Yorkshire;
- b) Asserts that the speed of this service is crucial to the economic viability of the East Midlands and regrets the relative lack of national investment in the Midland Main Line compared to other Inter-City

lines, resulting in far slower train speeds than the East Coast, West Coast and Great Western Main Lines;

- c) Shares the views expressed by the Transport Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer that our railways can “contribute fundamentally to economic growth” and that “well-judged capital spending by Government can help provide the new infrastructure our economy needs to compete in the modern world”;
- d) Welcomes the excellent partnership work between Network Rail, Nottinghamshire County Council, Derbyshire County Council, Leicestershire County Council and the City Councils of Nottingham, Derby, Leicester and Sheffield to identify a series of cost-effective enhancements that would straighten the Midland Main Line, especially around Market Harborough and Desborough;
- e) Resolves to write to all County MPs asking that they unite to lobby for an extra £32 million in capital investment which would ensure that, for the first time ever, average speeds on the Midland Main Line would match speeds on other Inter-city routes to London;
- f) Asserts that the economic benefits for the East Midlands of achieving train travel times of Nottingham to London in 90 minutes would provide an immediate and ongoing return for such investment.”

MOTION TWO

Councillor Winterton withdrew the motion from the agenda on the understanding that it would be the first motion on the following agenda.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.15 pm

CHAIRMAN

M_22SEPT11

APPENDIX A

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22ND SEPTEMBER 2011

3-MINUTE SPEECHES

Councillor Keith Longdon

"I would like to say that in Eastwood we've been waiting for many years for a Youth Centre. It's now been opened and I would like to thank everybody that came to the opening. It opened on the 9th September and it's a wonderful, wonderful centre. Anybody that wishes to can come and have a look, several people have already done so. Everybody is proud of it, and the Steering Committee send their thanks to this Authority and also the young kids do.

We opened up on Monday evening which was the 12th September and we got 80 kids in that room and on Thursday night another 80, Friday night 68. On Monday they had to pay. We got another 60 people but we had 30 people who hadn't got any money, who didn't realise they had got to pay and they'll be there next week and I would just like to say I'm very proud in Eastwood and thank you very much."

Councillor Sybil Fielding

"The current high profile media coverage of the Travelling Community only serves to demonstrate the challenges to this Council. Members may recall my frustration at the lack of progress evicting travellers from County Council property in the village of Shireoaks. I still remain very concerned and look forward to progress on a more robust process.

I take this opportunity to thank the professional officers of this County Council for their diligent and coordinated work that ensured travellers were moved off this inappropriate site and cleared away very significant quantities of rubbish and property left behind. Seemingly this included two dogs, one of which unfortunately was dead, and a horse, but the site was very quickly secured.

It was with some considerable disquiet that travellers returned to Shireoaks on the 14th July. I pay tribute to the resident's who observed them travelling towards the village and contacted me at a very early stage enabling me to act. I would like to place on record my thanks to senior staff at the County Council and to the police for what was very decisive action. This prompt response prevented another camp being re-established.

Officers have been working very hard to find a way of limiting access to this particular site but these alternatives will require funding. The cost of removing travellers and clearing up the mess left behind amounts to thousands of pounds.

Making a modest investment in improving security now would surely prevent the risk of major cost in the future and I will be pressing this administration on this matter. I seek to avoid making stereotypical judgements on the whole travelling community. My issue relates to this particular group of travellers who forced their way onto land and caused considerable distress to residents and a financial burden on the Council taxpayer.”

APPENDIX B

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22ND SEPTEMBER 2011

QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7.1

Question to the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People's Services from Councillor Sybil Fielding

"As I have been told that a review is to be taking place into looking at available walking routes to schools, could the Cabinet Member inform me when this review will exactly be taking place?"

However, in the meantime could he also please confirm that the bus provision will remain, in place, from Rhodesia to Portland Academy as my constituents are deeply concerned because they shall shortly be making a decision as to which school their child will be attending."

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

"Can I thank Councillor Fielding for the question which of course is very similar to the one she asked at the last meeting of the County Council so although the Cabinet Member answering has changed the answer will be the same in principle.

In June this year it was agreed by Council to review the decision made regarding the review of four walking routes to school including the route from Rhodesia to Portland School. It was agreed that the routes would be re-evaluated and the original decision suspended. It was also agreed that safeguards would be implemented into the decision making process including consultation and a six month notice period to stakeholders if there is a change in transport provision. A cross party Members Reference Group would also be implemented to oversee the decisions being made. With regards to removal of subsidised bus routes these will also be subject to the additional measures implemented for the evaluation of walking routes including the referral of all decisions to the Members Reference Group.

Following the decisions made in June the bus services serving Portland School from Rhodesia are now served by a commercial bus service. Children from the Rhodesia area are receiving free travel passes which the County Council pays the commercial operator for.

No further decisions have been made regarding safe walking routes.

Over the past 2 months Transport and Travel Services have been working with the Leader on a plan to strategically look at all of the transport provision across

the county including contracted and commercial services serving schools. This is a 3 year programme of work. The re-assessment of the safe walking routes will be integrated into this programme, retaining the safeguards that were agreed in June. Therefore parents, schools and other stakeholders will be consulted with, all decisions regarding walking routes and school transport will be assessed by the Members Reference Group and when a decision is finally agreed 6 months notice will be given before any change is implemented.

In summary, a commercial bus service is in place to serve the children travelling from Rhodesia to Portland School. The walking route to Portland School will be reviewed within the next 3 years. Children travelling from Rhodesia to Portland School will receive free travel until the walking route is reassessed and free travel will only be withdrawn when the walking route is deemed available.”

Question to the Cabinet Member for Culture & Community from Councillor Alan Rhodes

“The County failed to get the £15 million they claim to need for broadband.

Could the Deputy Cabinet Member please inform the Council how the money is being allocated and whether upgrading Retford will be included in the allocation?”

Response by Councillor Keith Girling, Deputy Cabinet Member for Culture & Community

“I would like to say how insulting it is of Councillor Rhodes to imply that all the hard work and effort put in by one of our officers in the economic development team failed. Indeed I would like to pay tribute to the officer for all the hard work she has done to ensure we had the strongest possible bid for the available funding and that she should be congratulated for running such a strong campaign receiving thousands of responses from businesses, public and other local authorities in such a short time.

Councillor Rhodes, the County Council has not ‘failed’ to get funding for broadband investment in the County, and I am not sure where you got the £15 million from. Maybe when it comes to the supplementary question he will share that with us or we’ll have to phone a friend to ask if he’s allowed to.

As I’m sure Members are aware, the Government announced national funding for broadband infrastructure at the start of this year. That’s right this Government, all the previous lot did was say wouldn’t it be wonderful to have broadband in this country, and absolutely did nothing. A bit like this Council really Chairman they said and didn’t, we said and do.

The County Council submitted “an expression of interest” in April, and the Government subsequently took the decision to change the funding process and

announce allocations for each county rather than having a competitive bid process.

The County Council's allocation was announced on the 16th August, and it is £4.25 million. BD:UK (Broadband Delivery UK) will fund a maximum of 50% of the total project costs, which gives a total project cost of £8.5 million. Officers in IT are currently analysing the BD:UK data model to check how the BD:UK figures were arrived at. If there is a gap between the BD:UK allocation and what our internal experts tell us the cost should be, we will bring this up at the Leader's meeting with BD:UK next week.

I should stress that the allocation is indicative, suggesting that there may well be room for negotiation. Let me assure Members now if there is a case for more funding we will make the case very strongly but it will be based on fact, not fiction. Regardless of the allocation figures, Members should be aware that we will have to find match funding for the project on a pound for pound basis. So, should the overall cost increase, the demand for match funding will increase proportionately.

The County Council's existing 5-year circa £30m investment in One County One Network; let me say that again. £30m investment. That's this leadership's commitment to the children of Nottinghamshire, which may be 'countable' as match funding, depending on the final implementation model, the phasing of delivery and the Government's treatment of existing and planned investment. Again that's us delivering not like them promising "jam tomorrow."

It is highly likely that this significant investment in infrastructure with BT and Virgin Media Exchanges through the county will mean that One County One Network can be relatively easily expanded into rural and isolated communities in Nottinghamshire which currently experience poor broadband coverage.

The County Council will only be intervening where it is proven that commercial telecommunication providers are unwilling to service that given locality.

The County Council welcomes the indication from Rushcliffe Borough Council that it may allocate funding from its Local Strategic Partnership and other available fundings and that Newark and Sherwood District Council are favourable to offer funding through its growth point.

However Chairman, I have had discussions regarding the possibility of Bassetlaw District Council making fundings available but as yet no commitment to any broadband related funds has been forthcoming.

Councillor Rhodes given you are clearly concerned for the broadband coverage in Retford and I would therefore assume the rest of Bassetlaw, will you give your and other Labour Bassetlaw Members commitment now? Members, I look forward to reporting back to you that Bassetlaw have indeed committed funds to help ensure that the residents get the best possible deal.

Chairman along with Council Officers, I have started the process of exploring with some Parish Councils the potential for them to put funds into the project, to enable them to bring forward their own aspirations for next generation broadband access in their own localities.

An application for ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) funding for Bassetlaw will be submitted next week which could bring £900,000 to the project. We are also involved in lobbying the East Midlands ERDF Committee for a change in its eligibility criteria for another ERDF funding pot, which could release significant match funding to the project. Other parts of the country have already enabled these ERDF funds to be used as match to broadband initiatives.

BD:UK stress that their funding is to enable 90% of communities to have access to super fast broadband (i.e. minimum of 25 megabits/second). The remaining 10% should have a minimum speed of 2 megabits per second once the investment in new infrastructure is completed.

Officers have undertaken detailed mapping exercises which will determine where the investment is targeted and how the phasing of the project is structured. This detail will be included in the Local Broadband Plan which we have to submit to BD:UK to unlock the funding. We are aiming to have this completed in October following our meeting with BD:UK next week. Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood and Rushcliffe are identified as phase one areas due to their rurality and the concentration of communities with poor broadband access.

The exact timing and phasing of this project will be subject to change, though, depending on where BT and other major telecom providers target their own commercial investment.

I can't, therefore, make firm statements about which parts of the county will benefit and when but we will be providing updates through the project pages on the County Council website (www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/broadband).

Members, please rest assured I along with my very professional and skilled team of officers will be doing all we can to ensure that we get the best possible deal for Nottinghamshire."

Question to the Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways from Councillor Eric Kerry

Can the Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways confirm that expenditure on carriageway repairs has increased under the Conservative administration and that more potholes are now being repaired on Nottinghamshire's roads than was the case before 2009?

Response by Councillor Richard Jackson Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways

“Highway repairs are a priority for our administration and I can confirm revenue expenditure on carriageway repairs has increased from £1.655m in financial year 08/09 to £2.26m in financial year 11/12 that’s a 35% increase. This has allowed a greater level of repair work including pot-hole repairs to take place, but there remains a lot of work to do.

Let’s remember that in 2009 we inherited a road network in an unsatisfactory condition thanks to years of Labour under-investment in our highways at local level. That’s despite the fact that previous Government’s were profligate with public money and previous Labour administrations had the benefit of some very generous grant settlements.

Since taking control we have had no such luxuries. We have had to manage within necessary constraints on highways capital investment, and we have faced two severe winters at the worst possible time. This has served to accelerate the deterioration of those historically neglected highways. In response, we have introduced better reporting procedure for potholes and we seek to respond more rapidly to public complaints than was the case in the past.

As a result of our increased revenue investment, our greater awareness of where the weaknesses lie and our greater willingness to tackle those weaknesses, it is anticipated that around 7,000 more road repairs will be carried out by the end of 2011-12 compared with 2008-09, the last year of Labour’s administration.

In summary, Chairman, the last Labour administration and the current Conservative administration have both had to address the issue of rapidly deteriorating roads. The difference is that this administration is serious about reversing the problem.”

Question to the Leader of the County Council from Councillor Chris Winterton

At a time when staff are being made redundant from the County Council and many jobs are at risk, will the Leader inform the Council the cost of the recent refurbishment of the reception area here at County Hall?

Also, the cost of the second phase of work to improve the security of the building, scheduled to start on 14th November – to include the installation of new security barriers and a revolving door at the Trent side entrance?

Response by Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts, Leader of the County Council

“The simple answer is that the cost of the County Hall reception improvements is £240,000. This includes relocating the switchboard, and cabling for the electronic barrier system.

This amounts to 2.4% of a £10 million office accommodation project which will deliver savings of over £2 million for this Council each year from 2014/15.

I am disappointed that a senior councillor has chosen to make a misleading connection between necessary improvements to our building infrastructure and the measures taken to ensure our staffing structure is efficient and effective.

Perhaps Councillor Winterton should concern himself with persuading his Group to produce an opposition budget with some substantive policies rather than seeking cheap publicity and not putting forward a budget at all. I should like to know what you're for, not what you're against.

He knows this Council has been working hard, and successfully, to maximise redeployment and minimise employee redundancies, compulsory redundancies in particular. The only money we have to spend is public money and we must only employ the correct number of people to deliver the services.

The works undertaken in the County Hall Reception were long overdue and, when completed, will significantly improve security for all our employees as well as Members and visitors to County Hall. Nottinghamshire County Council has a duty of care.

The County Hall building is very much behind the times and the current security measures are inadequate. It is too easy for people to tailgate staff through the current swipe card activated doors which were installed under the former Labour administration.

I recall an incident a few years ago, well after the security doors were installed, when a high profile Labour councillor was spotted chasing a suspect out of the front door of County Hall after an item was stolen from the office of one of his colleagues within the Majority Group corridor, a supposedly high security area.

Clearly, two sets of security doors failed to stop this determined thief, and while petty theft costs money and causes risk and distress to individuals concerned and also costs the council, it also demonstrates the potential for incidents of a far more serious nature.

The vast majority of public buildings have now restricted access to office areas which makes it very difficult for unauthorised people to gain entry. The forthcoming security turnstiles will perform this function and for safety fire purposes will also enable us to keep a more accurate record of who is in the building at any given time.

The barriers will cost around £70,000 of the £240,000 described earlier, and it is entirely sensible to complete the redesign and refurbishment and security upgrade as part of one phased programme, meaning there will be no need for significant investment for further work for years to come.

The final phase which includes disabled access and circular doors will reduce the wind-tunnel effect and save on our heating bills, not to mention making the environment more comfortable for staff working in that vicinity.

The new reception area creates a first impression at County Hall and has already attracted a considerable amount of positive comment from visitors, employees and Members, including other Labour Members, and I thank everybody for their feedback before the work's been completed.

We have sought to make the reception desk more visible and customer friendly. Visitors are now greeted by staff at reception desk as soon as they walk through the front door, behind which they will see other members of our staff taking incoming calls. It is a visible demonstration of our determination to put our customers at the heart of everything we do.

Maybe Councillor Winterton will recall when the reception desk was last located in its current position, and quite without reference and one can see no reason for this, the Labour Group made a unilateral decision to move the desk to where the coffee shop is now located. This proved unsuccessful, and so further works were carried out to install glass panelling.

If Councillor Winterton thinks there is political capital to be gained from this more carefully considered improvement work, then this is a matter for him. Following his logic, we may as well leave visitors, employees and Members at risk and allow all of our buildings to gradually deteriorate.

Before the work started, I took the opportunity to share the plans with the Leaders of the three opposition groups, including his own Leader, and all of whom were supportive."

Question to the Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways from Councillor Alan Rhodes

Will the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways inform the Council of the measures that are currently and those planned to be in place in time for the winter weather?

He will recall that many of my constituents and those in other areas within Nottinghamshire suffered badly, last winter, as a result of severe weather conditions.

Can he guarantee that lessons have been learnt and that the County Council will be fully prepared for the winter months ahead of us this year?

Response by Councillor Richard Jackson Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways

“Following the harsh winter of 2010/11 an action plan was developed to review and further improve the authority’s resilience. As a result of this work, an additional 7,000 tonnes of salt will be available to use on the County’s road network this winter, taking stocks to over 21,500 tonnes. This is 12,000 tonnes above the government’s recommended levels and is around double the levels which were thought to be adequate by Councillor Rhodes and his colleagues prior to 2009.

We have been working with parishes and town councils to encourage them to appoint snow wardens to act as a coordinating links between villages and the County Council’s district highway managers during severe weather. Work is also underway to seek expressions of interest from local farmers to ask if they would be prepared to help keep roads clear during periods of heavy snowfall.

Additionally work is taking place with the District Councils to increase cooperation during heavy snowfall. Overall the County Council is well prepared for the forthcoming winter. A full review of gritting routes is planned for winter 2012/13 to tie in with the Manage Operate Partnership districts winter maintenance activities returning to County Council on 1st April next year and the opening of the A46 trunk road improvement.”

Question to the Cabinet Member for Culture & Community from Councillor John Knight

Would the Cabinet Member for Culture & Community agree that local communities have put a high value on our heritage?

Does he, also agree that our heritage, in Nottinghamshire, plays a major role in economic regeneration, prosperity and business growth and should be protected and nurtured?

Therefore, would he agree that losing officers, with specialist knowledge of culture and heritage, risks this County failing to maximise the investment potential of regeneration initiatives, which could lead to historic records and archives becoming inaccurate or inaccessible and may ultimately lead to a depression in the quality of life for the residents of this County?

Response by Councillor John Cottee, Cabinet Member for Culture & Community

“The County Council recognizes the high value that communities place on heritage and it does play a major role in economic regeneration.

The County Council is currently working with the Destination Management Organisation, Experience Nottinghamshire, and a number of other organisations to develop a more co-ordinated approach to heritage and tourism.

The County Council’s Local Improvement Scheme has also been successfully used by Elected Members and local communities to restore and protect their heritage assets, often drawing significant amounts of external funding in to the County. Members may be interested to know that 4 Nottinghamshire projects have reached the final shortlist of the 16 for the Heritage Angel Awards being run by the Daily Telegraph and English Heritage, and it also includes the volunteers at Bestwood’s Winding Engine House.

Communities and the Environment Standing Committee have been investigating how the County Council works with others to deliver conservation and heritage. Their report to Cabinet is due shortly. The Standing Committee has, this month, initiated a scrutiny review of tourism and economic regeneration, and the promotion of the County’s heritage assets will be considered as part of the review.

The County Council is responsible for maintaining the County’s Historic Environment Record and my officers would be very happy to show any Members the records it holds for their Divisions. Nottinghamshire Archives has recently been assessed as a 4 star local authority archives service putting it in the top 10% of services across England and Wales. The service has also taken an active part in the ancestral tourism partnership encouraging visitors to come to Nottinghamshire to discover their roots thus contributing to the economy of the county.”

Question to the Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways from Councillor Bruce Laughton

As a regular user of Ollerton roundabout it has become patently obvious to me that there has been a significant improvement in traffic flow since the recent changes to the road layout. A resident on Station Road recently rang me thanking the authority and myself for the reduction in “rat running”.

Could the Cabinet Member update Council with the latest weekday directional flow statistics for Ollerton roundabout, which will be of interest to Members?

Response by Councillor Richard Jackson Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways

“The improvements to Ollerton roundabout have led to a significant reduction in the queues that previously formed on the A610 Ollerton Road and it’s approach to the roundabout. The journey from Tesco Roundabout in Ollerton along the A616 and entering the A614 island is now over 30 seconds quicker during the morning peak and over 3 minutes 30 seconds quicker during the evening peak which was the key problem in the area before the improvements to the island. Between 4pm and 6pm the average queue into the A614 roundabout from Ollerton previously reached 500 metres. This is now reduced to around 100 metres.

This in turn has significantly reduced the volume of traffic which was ‘rat-running’ through the conservation area of Old Ollerton along Station Road for example between 8am and 9am two way traffic levels have dropped by a third to 182 vehicles during the same period 5pm-6pm traffic is almost halved to 209 vehicles, these figures relate to two way traffic. Over a 24 hour typical weekday traffic along Station Road has reduced by 36%. Additionally there has been a reduction in through traffic along Main Street which all adds up to a significantly improved environment for residents and visitors.

Chairman, all of this has been achieved with a relatively modest investment and with a minimum of disruption and it really poses the question as to why these improvements were not carried out years ago!”

Question to the Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways from Councillor Kevin Greaves

In light of the McNulty Rail Review and the planned train ticket office closures, will the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways inform the Council what is being done to protect our County Railway stations’ ticket offices – is there any consultation planned or has been done in defence of these ticket offices?

Response by Councillor Richard Jackson Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways

“The McNulty Study recommends that “Train Operating Companies should consider the closure of all category E station ticket offices, and reducing the opening hours at category D station ticket offices”. Only two of our stations in Nottinghamshire are in these categories:-

Beeston is currently in category D. The definition of category D is “Typically ticket revenues between £1 and £2 million & 250,000 to 500,000 passengers a year”. In 2009/10 (which is the last year we have data available for), Beeston generated 414,718 passengers and this number has been growing steadily for over ten years.

Looking at Worksop, Worksop is currently in category E. The definition of this is typically ticket revenue of up to £1 million & of up to 250,000 passengers a year. In fact the number of passengers at Worksop has been growing so strongly at Worksop for the past ten years that it's reached 461,244 in 2009/10. This takes it well into station category D and nearly into station category C, and the Council is seeking formal reclassification on that.

At both of these stations the ticket office is currently only open part time. The McNulty report does not instruct the closure of ticket offices - rather it recommends that Train Operating Companies should "consider" changing the opening hours. The Train Operating Companies will take into account the revenue generated, which at both Beeston and Worksop will be very substantial. It is very unlikely that the cuts would be made at stations where patronage and revenue is growing so consistently and so strongly as is the case in these two stations. The huge success of rail services at both Beeston and Worksop is the best and most effective way to ensure that ticket offices continue with their current opening hours, and this Council will continue to do all that we can to ensure the success and continuation of rail patronage growth.

No proposals have been made about either of these two stations, and as far as the Council is aware no consultation is planned either; although it is impossible to say what Train Operating Companies might do in the future. If any such proposals or consultation does take place, the Council would make representations in the strongest possible terms about how enormously rail usage has grown at both Beeston and Worksop, and how much revenue would be at risk of being lost if ticket offices had their hours reduced."

APPENDIX C

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22ND SEPTEMBER 2011

QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7.2

Question to the Chair of Nottinghamshire Police Authority from Councillor Chris Winterton

As I have, recently, experienced problems, when ringing Police Headquarters, not being able to speak to an officer regarding concerns raised by my constituents:-

Can the Chairman advise me on the procedure being applied by the Chief Constable of how to speak to any senior Command Officer at the Police?

Not being able to get through to speak to any local Command Officer efficiently and effectively, will only reduce confidence in the Nottinghamshire Police Service.

Response by Councillor Jon Collins, Chair of the Nottinghamshire Police Authority:

"I am sorry Councillor Winterton seems to have had problems contacting the Senior Command Team. There are however systems in place for contacting the Chief Officer Team. Firstly callers need to dial 0300 300 99 99 and then for the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable they should add when prompted extension 800 2006. A member of the Senior Officers Team Staff will then be able to help him. To reach ACC Broadbent and ACC Scarrott he should dial 0300 300 99 99 and then extension 800 2007. For ACC Ackerley and ACO Margaret Monckton again the same main number followed by 800 2011.

I am sure the answer to the question will be printed but I am more than happy to circulate to Members the details of the various extensions if that is helpful. There is a voicemail facility on all extensions and when staff are not at work these are accessed periodically throughout the day by other members of the team.

To contact Chief Superintendent Simon Nicholas, who is the City Commander the telephone number is the same main number but with extension 801 5004 and for Chief Superintendent Ak Khan who is the County Division Commander, the number is again the same original number but with extension 805 3000.

Finally I'm always happy for Councillor Winterton to contact me directly should he experience any further problems in this regard rather than him having to wait until the next meeting of the Council in order to raise it."