



SUMMONS TO COUNCIL

date Thursday, 16 January 2014
commencing at 10:30

venue County Hall, West Bridgford,
Nottingham

You are hereby requested to attend the above Meeting to be held at the time/place and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the business on the Agenda as under.

Chief Executive

- | | | |
|----------|--|--------|
| 1 | Minutes of the last meeting held on 21 November 2013 | 5 - 26 |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)
(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
(b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) | |
| 4 | Chairman's Business
(a) Presentation of Awards/Certificates (if any) | |
| 5 | Constituency Issues (see note 5 below) | |
| 6 | Presentation of Petitions (if any) (see note 6 below) | |
| 7 | Questions
a) Questions to Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority.

b) Questions to Committee Chairmen | |

8	Clarification of Committee Meeting Minutes	27 - 28
9	Establishment of the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee	29 - 42
10	Strategic Plan 2014-18	43 - 66
11	Conduct Issues	67 - 70

**12 NOTICE OF MOTIONS
MOTION ONE**

"Families trying to escape during the school holidays continue to face price increases of more than 50 per cent on term-time breaks results in families missing out on valuable family time.

Some travel companies are putting up breaks by more than £1,000 during the February half-term. And the price gap can be as high as 269 per cent. Some travel firms are holding parents to ransom. The average price of a family holiday for four during the February break is 53 per cent more than the same trip two weeks later.

The financial penalty for taking a holiday in the school break means many families will stay at home. These is also likely to be a rise in the number of families breaking the rules and facing a fine, by taking their children out of school in term time.

This motion calls on Nottinghamshire County Council to ask Nottinghamshire Members of Parliament to bring a debate to Parliament and to call representatives from the Holiday Industry together to discuss the over inflated prices the industry places on holidays and travel during the school holidays, and for the Government to push for a fairer pricing policy for families who wish to take their children on holiday."

Councillor Colleen Harwood Councillor Joyce Bosnjak

MOTION TWO

"Nottinghamshire County Council recognises the huge social, economic and environmental benefits the Tram brings to the City of Nottingham and the areas of Nottinghamshire it serves.

Nottinghamshire County Council will, in principle, support the future development of the tram by working in partnership with the District and Borough Councils and Nottingham City Council"

Councillor Kevin Greaves Councillor Steve Calvert

13 **ADJOURNMENT DEBATE**
(If Any)

(A) For Councillors

- (1) Members will be informed of the date and time of their Group meeting for Council by their Group Researcher.
- (2) The Chairman has agreed that the Council will adjourn for lunch at their discretion.
- (3)
 - (a) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Procedure Rules for Meetings of the Full Council. Those declaring must indicate whether their interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest or a private interest and the reasons for the declaration.
 - (b) Any member or officer who declares a disclosable pecuniary interest in an item must withdraw from the meeting during discussion and voting upon it, unless a dispensation has been granted. Members or officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services prior to the meeting.
 - (c) Declarations of interest will be recorded and included in the minutes of this meeting and it is therefore important that clear details are given by members and others in turn, to enable the Team Manager, Democratic Services to record accurate information.
- (4) Members are reminded that these papers may be recycled. Appropriate containers are located in the respective secretariats.
- (5) Members are given an opportunity to speak for three minutes on any particular issue which relates to matters relevant to their constituencies or any particular issues arising in their electoral division. This would be an opportunity simply to air these issues in Council meeting. It would not give rise to a debate on the issues or a question or answer session
- (6) Members are reminded that petitions can be presented from their seat with a 1 minute time limit set on introducing the petition.

(B) For Members of the Public

- (1) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80.

- (2) The papers enclosed with this agenda are available in large print if required. Copies can be requested by contacting the Customer Services Centre on 0300 500 80 80. Certain documents (for example appendices and plans to reports) may not be available electronically. Hard copies can be requested from the above contact.



Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 21st November 2013 (10.30 am – 5.14 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

John Allin (Chairman)
Pauline Allan (Vice-Chairman)

Reg Adair
Roy Allan
Chris Barnfather
Alan Bell
Joyce Bosnjak
Nicki Brooks
Andrew Brown
Richard Butler
Steve Calvert
Ian Campbell
Steve Carr
Steve Carroll
John Clarke
John Cottee
Jim Creamer
Mrs Kay Cutts
Maureen Dobson
Dr John Doddy
Boyd Elliott
Sybil Fielding
Kate Foale
Stephen Garner
Glynn Gilfoyle
Kevin Greaves
Alice Grice
John Handley
Colleen Harwood
Stan Heptinstall MBE
Tom Hollis
Richard Jackson
Roger Jackson
David Kirkham
John Knight

Darren Langton
Bruce Laughton
Keith Longdon
Rachel Madden
Diana Meale
John Ogle
Philip Owen
Michael Payne
John Peck JP
Sheila Place
Liz Plant
Darrell Pulk
Alan Rhodes
A Ken Rigby
Tony Roberts MBE
Mrs Sue Saddington
Andy Sissons
Pam Skelding
Stella Smedley MBE JP
Martin Suthers OBE
Parry Tsimbiridis
Gail Turner
Keith Walker
Stuart Wallace
Muriel Weisz
Gordon Wheeler
John Wilkinson
Jacky Williams
John Willmott
Yvonne Woodhead
Liz Yates
Jason Zadrozny

HONORARY ALDERMEN

Martin Brandon-Bravo OBE
Stewart Pattinson

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mick Burrows	(Chief Executive)
Jayne Francis-Ward	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Tim Gregory	(Environment and Resources)
Jon Wilson	(Adult Social Care, Health & Public Protection)
Anthony May	(Children, Families and Cultural Services)
Paul Simpson	(Environment and Resources)
Carl Bilbey	(Policy, Planning & Corporate Services)
Martin Done	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Chris Holmes	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Karen Townrow	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Anna Vincent	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Michelle Welsh	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)

OPENING PRAYER

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

FORMER COUNCILLOR ANDY STEWART

Members stood in silence in remembrance of former Councillor Andy Stewart

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED: 2013/044

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the County Council held on 26th September 2013 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ken Rigby (Personal)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Carr declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 11, Treasury Management Mid-Year report 2013/14, as he worked for the Royal Bank of Scotland.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

(a) Former Councillor Andy Stewart

The Chairman, Councillor Alan Rhodes, Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts, Councillor Stan Heptinstall, Councillor Bruce Laughton, Councillor Stella Smedley, Councillor Keith Walker, Councillor Gail Turner, Councillor Maureen Dobson, and Councillor Roger Jackson all spoke in memory of former Councillor Andy Stewart.

(b) Presentations and Awards

Teacher of the Year Award

Councillor John Peck introduced the award and indicated the prestigious Daily Mail Pride of Britain Teacher of the Year Award had been won by Sharon Gray, Head Teacher of Netherfield Primary School. The Chairman acknowledged the exceptional achievement, and presented the award to her.

Institute of Customer Service Award

Councillor Alan Rhodes introduced the ICS Customer Service Award. The Chairman received the award from Councillor Rhodes and presented it to the members of staff from the Customer Service Centre who were present.

2013 Plaque of Honour

Councillor Joyce Bosnjak introduced the award and reported that Nottinghamshire had been awarded the prestigious 2013 Plaque of Honour by the Council of Europe. This recognised the work of local people over many years in promoting unity and friendship with different people and places in Europe. She presented the plaque to the Chairman

5. CONSTITUENCY ISSUES

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

Councillor Gordon Wheeler -The effect of the NET tram extension in Compton Acres

Councillor Jason Zadrozny – Public Services

Councillor Tom Hollis – Highways Safety

6.(a) PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

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

- (1) Councillor Joyce Bosnjak regarding the removal of overgrown planters on Gladstone Street, Mansfield
- (2) Councillor Joyce Bosnjak regarding a request for the pathway between Balmoral Drive and Chesterfield Road North to become a registered 'public right of way'
- (3) Councillor Michael Payne regarding the movement of the taxi rank in Front Street, Arnold
- (4) Councillor Liz Yates regarding bus services in Misterton
- (5) Councillor Richard Butler regarding bus services in Langar
- (6) Councillor Roger Jackson regarding Barrett Homes planning application for 100 houses at Ash Croft Farm, Crockett Lane, Mansfield
- (7) Councillor Bruce Laughton regarding Fiskerton Household Waste Recycling Centre
- (8) Councillor Steve Carr regarding residents of Warwick Avenue, Beeston calling for action to be taken against speeding traffic on their street
- (9) Councillor Stan Heptinstall regarding residents asking for a 20 mph speed limit on Cow Lane, Bramcote
- (10) Councillor Andy Sissons regarding traffic issues on Forest Avenue, Mansfield
- (11) Councillor Maureen Dobson regarding extending 30 mph limits to all entrances and exits to Collingham
- (12) Councillor Collen Harwood regarding installation of a zebra crossing outside St. Peters C of E Primary & Nursery School, Mansfield

RESOLVED: 2013/045

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

6.(b) PETITION RESPONSES REPORT- - TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: - 2013/046

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

7. QUESTIONS

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

No questions were received

(b) QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Five questions had been received as follows

- (1) from Councillor Andy Sissons regarding why Nottinghamshire County Council is proposing to stop funding for Mansfield Play Forum (Councillor John Peck replied)
- (2) from Councillor Steve Carr regarding at what stage in the County Council election campaign did the Labour Group realise they would not be able to deliver their six pledges given that the Council was advised in February of a £133 million black hole in the budget (Councillor Alan Rhodes replied)
- (3) from Councillor Kay Cutts regarding the unusually high number of committee meetings that have either been cancelled or postponed since the summer recess (Councillor Alan Rhodes replied)
- (4) from Councillor Sue Saddington regarding the damage caused to surrounding roads by the high levels of traffic including heavy goods vehicles diverted on to them during the extended closure of Kelham Bridge (Councillor Kevin Greaves replied)
- (5) from Councillor Philip Owen regarding when the bus plug camera on Nottingham Road, Nuthall will be enforced (Councillor Kevin Greaves replied)

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

8. CLARIFICATION OF MINUTES

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

9. COMPOSITION OF THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD

Councillor Joyce Bosnjak introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2013/047 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Muriel Weisz.

Reference was made to the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board meetings on 5th June and 2nd October 2013 when members of the Board were informed that the County Council was considering changing the composition of the Board to include a representative from each district council and from the Police and Crime commissioner. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that in her view this was adequate consultation for the legislative requirement.

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

The requisite number of Members requested a recorded vote and it was ascertained that the following 35 Members voted '**FOR**' the motion:-

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

The following 21 Members voted '**AGAINST**' the motion:-

Reg Adair	Bruce Laughton
Chris Barnfather	John Ogle
Andrew Brown	Philip Owen
Richard Butler	Tony Roberts MBE
John Cottee	Sue Saddington
Kay Cutts	Martin Suthers OBE
Dr John Doddy	Keith Walker
Boyd Elliott	Stuart Wallace
John Handley	Gordon Wheeler
Richard Jackson	Liz Yeyes
Roger Jackson	

The following 9 Members '**ABSTAINED**':-

Steve Carr	Rachel Madden
Stephen Garner	Andy Sissons
Stan Heptinstall MBE	Gail Turner
Tom Hollis	Jason Zadrozny
Keith Longdon	

The Chairman declared the motion carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2013/047

- (1) That the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board be increased to allow a representative from each Nottinghamshire district council and of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- (2) That each district council and the Commissioner be invited to nominate one substitute to attend in the absence of the representative.

**10. NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WASTE CORE STRATEGY
EXAMINATION-RECEIPT OF INSPECTOR'S REPORT AND ADOPTION**

Councillor Jim Creamer introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2013/048 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor John Wilkinson.

RESOLVED: 2013/048

That the adoption of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy be approved; and authority delegated to the Corporate Director of Policy, Planning and Corporate Services in consultation with the Chair of the Environment and Sustainability

Committee to make any final minor changes required to correct typographical or other errors.

11. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID – YEAR REPORT 2013/2014

Councillor Steve Carr having earlier declared an interest in this item, left the meeting during discussion and voting on the item.

Councillor David Kirkham introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2013/049 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Darren Langton.

RESOLVED: 2013/049

That the treasury management activities for the first half of 2013/14 be noted.

Councillor Steve Carr returned to the meeting.

12. NOTICE OF MOTION

A motion in terms of resolution 2013/050 below was moved by Councillor Alan Rhodes and seconded by Councillor John Wilkinson.

The following amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Jason Zadrozny and seconded by Councillor Steve Carr:-

~~“Nottinghamshire County Council has been given an unfair deal from Central Government. The Council is facing a reduction in its Revenue Support Grant amounting to close to 21% over the next two years. This is in comparison to wealthier local authorities such as Surrey and Buckinghamshire which have been treated far more leniently.~~

~~There are only three local authorities in the country that have received a higher reduction than Nottinghamshire.~~

The Council notes that due to the financial mess the country was left in by the last Labour Government it has been necessary to reduce the country's budget deficit and make savings. Council also notes that Ed Balls and Ed Milliband have said they will not reverse the cuts if they win the next General election.

Council further notes that if the last Labour Government hadn't almost bankrupted the country then all councils wouldn't be facing such large reductions in expenditure.

Council calls on the Labour leadership to stop seeking to play party politics, stop simply looking at the easy options for cuts and look more innovatively at finding

new funding streams as many Councils have done which would mean that NCC isn't so dependent on Central Government funding.

A Campaign has been launched for a fairer deal for Nottinghamshire, aiming to work with community groups, district town and parish councils, faith groups, voluntary sector organisations, trade unions, private and public sector organisations and Members of Parliament. All local politicians from across the political divide are being invited to participate in the scheme.

Most importantly, this is a campaign for, and by, the people of Nottinghamshire. We are therefore calling upon Nottinghamshire County Council to support and adopt the Fair Deal for Nottinghamshire campaign and demand a fairer allocation of funding from Central Government for our county.

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

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

The requisite number of Members requested a recorded vote and it was ascertained that the following 31 Members voted '**FOR**' the motion:-

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

The following 12 Members voted '**AGAINST**' the motion:-

Reg Adair	John Handley
Chris Barnfather	Richard Jackson
Richard Butler	Bruce Laughton
John Cottee	Philip Owen
Kay Cutts	Gordon Wheeler
Dr John Doddy	Liz Yates

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

RESOLVED: 2013/050

Nottinghamshire County Council has been given an unfair deal from Central Government. The Council is facing a reduction in its Revenue Support Grant amounting to close to 21% over the next two years. This is in comparison to wealthier local authorities such as Surrey and Buckinghamshire which have been treated far more leniently.

There are only three local authorities in the country that have received a higher reduction than Nottinghamshire.

A campaign has been launched for a fairer deal for Nottinghamshire, aiming to work with community groups, district, town and parish councils, faith groups, voluntary sector organisations, trade unions, private and public sector organisations and Members of Parliament. All local politicians from across the political divide are being invited to participate in the campaign.

Most importantly, this is a campaign for, and by, the people of Nottinghamshire. We are therefore calling upon Nottinghamshire County Council to support and adopt the Fair Deal for Nottinghamshire Campaign and demand a fairer allocation of funding from Central Government for our county.

13. ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

As Councillor Steve Carr was not in the chamber, the request for an adjournment debate fell.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.14 pm

CHAIRMAN

APPENDIX A

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21st November 2013

3 MINUTE SPEECHES

Councillor Gordon Wheeler

“The partial closure of Wilford Lane is scheduled to be reopened at the end of December this year. But given the massive delay in re-opening Ruddington lane when it was also closed for tram works, I fear the same delays will haunt Wilford Lane. In fact Chairman, if you look at the Post today, you will see they’re running this story on the huge delay to the works at Clifton and Beeston.

When I pointed out to NET and their Contractors that the road surfaces were breaking up badly I was told that a few buses would have no adverse impact on the road surface. Because busses have been re-routed, there are 83 **additional** busses from 7am to 7pm; 70 on a Saturday and 39 on a Sunday. I am sure no sensible person in this Chamber today would regard 524 **additional** busses a week as a “few”! And this does not include the lorries and other heavy vehicles that have chosen to take diversions down these residential streets because they cannot get through Wilford Lane.

I am sure Chairman many of you here today have seen your car journey times soar because of the tram works. And you have had to meet the extra fuel costs as you sit in a seemingly endless queue of traffic, without any recompense from NET. But far more importantly spare a thought for the dozens of businesses that have suffered huge financial hits because of the tram works.

Kevin, John Cottey is just about to pass you a picture. This was just part of the road photographed last month. This is simply representative of equal or worse damage on both these roads. Just imagine the condition of the roads by the end of this year. And to compound this, the problem British Gypsum has been sending its lorries down Landmere Lane rather than Ruddington Lane. I submitted a petition to Full council on this a few months ago but to the dismay of residents these vehicles continue to thunder down the residential street.

We will later today talk about the challenges facing this Council and the need to make savings. I somehow suspect the debate will be lively. But whatever our political views may be on what and where savings need to be made, everyone here today should agree that the damage to the road surfaces is a direct result from increased heavy traffic due to the closure of Wilford Lane for tram works. Why should this Council pick up the bill or, worse still, the roads left in a dangerous condition? Claims for compensation will spiral”

Councillor Jason Zadrozny

Members will be aware that I’ve risen a number of times in this Chamber to raise the issue of traffic safety on Skegby Road junction in my division and Dalestorth Street. I’ve had visits from Highways inspectors, I’ve paid for surveys for the justification of

roadworks, we've had schemes drawn up and a number of initiatives to try and increase safety in that area.

It's a particularly dangerous junction at which is the crossing point for 3 different schools so you can imagine my dismay at the beginning of this school term this year to discover that my school crossing patrol had been removed. I tracked the lady down who's been moved to a different position and she was quite pleased because the traffic there was so dangerous that the lollipop has been ripped out of her hand on a number of occasions and she's very concerned about working there. She's more concerned, as I am about the safety of the children.

So I immediately spoke to Andy Warrington who promised me a telephone call back that day and I'm still waiting. That is some weeks and now months since that telephone call, and I've since emailed on a number of occasions as has Anna to try and chase up to find out what's happening cause we can't even get an answer on whether the post is going to be made vacant and advertised, whether it's been deleted, whether it's to be replaced. My great concern is that members cannot answer their members of the public, their residents on what's happening because we can't find the information out from the authority.

And my grave fear is that this is cuts to public services by the back door. They're clearly moving vacancies about which we all know and accept to a certain degree. There are some vacancies which we believe should be protected such as the safety of children and if the administration agree with me which I suspect they will then we need to have a transparent exchange of information to know what's happening to replace essential frontline services like that because at the moment I've got some hundreds of children crossing a very dangerous junction with no extra safety provision and no sign of that being provided.

We are having a nice day today but when it's foggy and when it gets darker in the morning and darker in the evenings we are very close to increasing the danger level to some of the youngest residents within my division and I just don't think that's tenable.

So Mr Chairman I think we need to have a better dialogue. We need to have the departments explaining to members much more quickly and professionally what's happening and we can't carry on like that Mr Chairman.

Councillor Tom Hollis

Members may recall that at the last Full Council meeting I presented a petition on behalf of the residents of the Ashfield Estate in my Division, calling on the County Council to add the main routes through the estate onto the definitive gritting routes. An area which was omitted from this basic service by the member who was in office during the development of that estate.

This issue is now essential prior to the poor weather which is due to hit us over coming weeks and months, not least because even inclement weather some areas of this estate are treacherously dangerous.

I have made many reports to the highways department of this Council about the speeding traffic and poor road conditions, particularly on Castlewood Grove and Redbarn Way. There have been a number of very very serious accidents along the stretch of Castlewood Grove, mainly in-between Calladine Grove and Winterbank Close.

Cars have often lost control and careered into the front gardens of homes, dangerously close to hitting houses on a number of occasions. The most recent accident was just a few weeks ago when a driver lost control on the main road and ploughed into one of my resident's front gardens. This accident was at 10:00am in the morning but if had it been an hour earlier during school time, in what is a popular area for walkers and the main route to school, who knows how bad the outcomes could have been.

To make matters worse the Council recently removed the interactive speed sign from Castlewood Grove.

It is a very poorly designed section of the highways network. With one tragic fatality in my division in recent years, I do not want to see another before action is taken, and it is not likely to be just one person hurt or killed if one of the cars that frequently end up in someone's garden, ends up in their front living room.

Again, I urge the Council to take urgent action to review and implement measures to demonstrably reduce traffic and traveling speeds through the estate as well as improving the surface of the highway to prevent such frequent skidding. I look forward to an urgent response from the Highway department to let me know what timeframe they will be working to, to ensure that accidents are stopped as far as is possible in this area. I do not want to be standing in this chamber following the death of a resident saying "I told you so", let's fix this now, and get it right first time.

APPENDIX B

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21st NOVEMBER 2013 QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Question to the Chairman of the Children & Young People's Committee, from Councillor Andy Sissons

Six months ago Mansfield Play Forum was given a contract to provide active play services for children 2 to 3 years old up to 11 years old, arguably their most formative years, to the whole of Nottinghamshire, including areas of social deprivation, which of course, have been used as one of the valid and sensible criteria in deciding what to cut and what to save.

Mansfield Play Forum has actually saved Nottinghamshire County Council money since commissioned to deliver not just open access play but also providing equipment to play groups, child minders and organisations such as scouts and brownies nurturing good citizenship and social skills in children up to early teens.

It has also provided gainful employment to 20 previously unemployed young adults training them as Play Leaders to the children.

The question is:- why is it proposed to stop funding for this organisation half way through its 3 year contract signalling the extinction of this valuable resource with a multitude of benefits when there are other areas within the children and young people's budget that are not cost effective and could be cut instead.

Response from Councillor John Peck, Chairman Children & Young People's Committee

Thanks very much Councillor Sissons for asking the question and I fully understand your evident concerns and I assure you that proposals such as these are ones that I would not wish to be considering and that can be said for every one of the business cases in my department. To paraphrase the prime minister who recently expunged these speeches; "I did not come into local government to make cuts" and certainly not ones such as these I assure you. We've spent a long time agonising over every one of these decisions which are out to consultation.

However, as part of the council's proposed budget reduction programme, a reduction of £1,350,000 is proposed from the 1st October 2014 in the Young People's Service budget. The Service currently has responsibility for play provision as well as youth work. The current £140,000 3 year contract that you refer to, to deliver open access play across the county was awarded to a consortium led by Mansfield Play Forum and commenced on 1st April of this year. The contract was commissioned in 2012 when at that time the scope of the Council's future budget reductions from 2014 onwards was unclear and we certainly couldn't envisage the additional budget pressures caused by the Chancellor's decision in June.

The contract replaced the Council's direct provision of open access play and was driven by a budget reduction required of the young people's service which was actually made by the previous administration. The current proposed budget reduction of 30% for the young people's service, and we're looking at those sort of reductions – 30%, will require it to be reshaped and to prioritise its contribution to the Council's statutory duty to provide services and activities to improve young people's wellbeing in the 13-19 age range.

So this reshaping that we're considering has led to the proposal to end the current Open Access Play contract halfway through its 3 year duration on the 1st October 2014. This contract as you refer to supports work with children in the 3-12 age range and the proposal does not in any way reflect on the quality of open access play provision that is currently delivered by Mansfield Play Forum and its partners. I have to say that by all reports this is of the very highest quality and this decision to go to consultation is certainly no reflection on their high quality and excellent work.

However the position the Children and Young People's Department finds itself in is no different to every other department and savings just have to be made. We can't do everything in the same way nor to the extent which we would like. If this County had a fair share of funding, perhaps some of the decisions might be different. At the moment all the proposals are out for consultation as you know and I give you my assurance that we will listen to all representations before any final decision is made.

Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Steve Carr

Given that this Council was advised in February 2013 that there was a budget black hole of £133 million over the next three years, at what stage in the County Council election campaign did the labour Group realise they would not be able to deliver their six pledges?

To remind Councillors these were:-

1. Make jobs, skills and training our priorities
2. Build extra care housing for our elderly
3. Put a 20 mph LIMIT outside our schools
4. Keep the street lights on at night
5. Modernise our libraries
6. Invest in our children's centres and youth services

Response from Councillor Alan Rhodes, Leader of the Council

Can I thank Councillor Carr for his question and for the little aid memoir that he put in it for our assistance.

I'd also like to say Chairman that for a Lib Dem to be questioning us on keeping our election pledges is rather taking irony to a whole new level.

That aside I will answer his question and I'm proud to do so.

This administration fully intends to deliver on all its election promises.

We have made Jobs, skills and training our priority. We gave the Economic Development Committee the status it deserved. We have produced a strategic plan which sets economic development and job creation at its heart, we are working better than ever with our partner authorities in D2N2 to deliver the jobs that people in Notts want and deserve.

We have invested £1 million in a Jobs Growth Fund and have re-designed our Local Improvement Scheme in order to make regeneration, job, skills and training our priority.

Not only have we done this but we have made a commitment to paying more than 2,200 of the lowest paid workers at Nottinghamshire County Council the Living Wage. This will benefit employees, many of whom are part time, female workers, in a range of frontline public facing jobs like caring for older people, cooking school meals, helping our children safely cross the roads and cleaning school buildings – and promise to give these people more spending power to boost the local economy.

We are building extra care housing for the elderly. Something we started in the previous Labour administration under David Kirkham's leadership which was put on ice for four years under the last administration. On the 30th October, which was only a few weeks ago, we signed off the extra care housing in Gedling. We have approved sites in Retford and Eastwood. We have identified further sites in Ashfield and Mansfield in partnership with District Council colleagues and the private sector.

We have already commenced a programme of 20mph zones outside schools. The first 20mph speed zone to be implemented outside a school under a new scheme by Nottinghamshire County Council is up and running.

The scheme -- outside Robin Hood Primary and Nursery school in Oxclose Lane, Mansfield Woodhouse was the first since the County Council gave the go-ahead for 20mph speed zones to be implemented outside all the county's schools. I was happy to be there on November 15th when we officially opened the zone. Currently there are 15 schools in Nottinghamshire which have 20mph speed limits. It is planned to roll out the scheme to eventually cover all 338 schools in the county, both primary and secondary.

The Council has already undertaken speed surveys at the first 50 proposed locations, with the remainder of the surveys scheduled to take place between now and March 2014 so that a rolling programme of 20mph zones can be introduced throughout 2014/15 and 2015/16.

We are keeping lights on at night and replacing outmoded technology with LED lighting to make us more energy efficient and save money. We are proud to be a Council that has pledged to switch our street lights back on in every community that requires us to do so.

We fully intend to carry out our promise to modernise our libraries during our four year term. The proposals we have issued for consultation set out a new vision for library management which involves real community involvement and commitment in the

running of these valuable community resources. What could be more modern than that? And this modernisation will be backed by capital funding, where appropriate, to ensure successful transitions to community managed delivery. At the same time, we are continuing with a long term programme of major capital investment in our libraries. Later this month, for example, we will be re-opening Stapleford Library following an extensive refurbishment.

We are investing in our children's centres and our youth provision. We are moving away from a universal offer to a more directed provision aimed at those young people most in need of support. We are continuing to invest in our children's centres and youth provision. Indeed, our proposals for children's centres and our youth service are intended to protect and preserve the vital services they deliver, whilst ensuring that we focus our funding in the communities that need our support the most. And our proposals will ensure that we retain a comprehensive children's centre offer, and one of the largest open access youth networks in the country."

So, we are meeting our pledges and this is actually quite a considerable achievement for a Labour Administration that has only been in office for seven months.

We had every intention of delivering on our pledges when we issued our manifesto and despite the current budgetary difficulties we still have every intention of delivering on those pledges. This administration will protect the most vulnerable in our society just as we said we would.

Chairman I am also happy to tell this Council that to date it seems that the good people of Nottinghamshire also agree with the proposals we have put forward from the consultation responses we have received around the budget.

I am sorry that Cllr Carr is so lacking in innovative ideas or inspiration that he can only see one way of providing services and suggests that any change is a failure to deliver on promises rather than a more cost effective approach. However, I completely understand that being a Liberal Democrat, Councillor Carr is well rehearsed in the non-delivery of pledges.

I've nothing further to add to that other than to say that the question was gratefully received and I'm very happy to give a progress report

But it doesn't surprise me and amply demonstrates why his party will never be in a position to have to make decisions such as this. Let's be thankful for small mercies.

Question to Leader of the Council from Councillor Kay Cutts

Would the Leader of the Council explain the unusually high number of committee meetings that have been either cancelled or postponed since the summer recess, including Culture, Transport & Highways, Rights of Way, Planning & Licensing, Health & Wellbeing (Board) and all but one of the Members' Forums?

Given:-

- a) his report to Council in September piloting a reduction in the number of meetings of the Community Safety, Culture, Environment & Sustainability and Rights of Way committees;
- b) the proposal through Policy Committee (13/11/13) to scrap Members' Forum meetings, and
- c) the reduced number of Full Council meetings this year compared to previous years;

Would the Leader agree with me that this is undermining the committee system and represents a significant democratic deficit?

Response from Councillor Alan Rhodes Leader of the Council

I would like to thank the Leader of the Opposition for her question.

It is however inaccurate and ill-considered and clearly Councillor Cutts has not done any research into the facts of the situation. Allow me to enlighten you.

The facts are these.

Transport and Highways Committee; the meeting on 5th Sept was indeed cancelled and rearranged for 12 days later on 17th September. No reduction in meetings therefore.

Planning and Licensing Committee; the meeting on 17th September was cancelled and rearranged for 30th Sept, for business reasons. No reduction in the number of meetings on that occasion either. There was a meeting cancelled in October due to no business but due to a recent increase in applications which require determination an extra meeting has been added to the calendar for December to cover the work required. In summary exactly the same number of meetings as originally diaryed

Health and Wellbeing Board; the September meeting was rearranged for business reasons and a prearranged workshop was converted to a formal public meeting. No change in the number of formal meetings from that diarised.

Rights of Way Committee; the meeting was rearranged from 4th Sept to 11th Sept. No change in the number of meetings diarised.

Now it is fair to say that four meetings have been cancelled due to lack of business; a Culture Committee, a Health Scrutiny, Public Health and a Joint Committee for Strategic Planning and Transport.

It's also correct that at the last Council Meeting it was agreed that we would pilot a reduction in the meetings cycle for Community Safety Committee, Environment and Sustainability Committee and Culture Committee and that in this municipal year two meetings of Environment and Sustainability Committee, two meetings of Community Safety Committee and three meetings of Culture Committee are due to be cancelled as part of this pilot scheme.

By my calculation across the Municipal Year that equates to 12 meetings cancelled. I'm sure members will be interested to know how that equates to the previous municipal year; the first and only comparative year under the committee system. 12 meetings were cancelled. Shall I repeat that? 12 meetings cancelled; exactly the same number of meetings as are proposed cancelled in this current year. The difference is that this administration has been upfront and clear on the pilot it is running, unlike the previous administration.

Can we now move on to consider Member Forums? Why did these get set up? They were established when the Cabinet System of governance was introduced to ensure members had an opportunity to ask questions about issues that were happening in their areas. They don't form part of the formal governance structure, they aren't included in the constitution and they are not public meetings.

Members can now ask questions at Committees about issues which affect their local areas. The standing orders for committees allow the local member to attend and speak at committees meetings, even if they aren't a member of that committee if an item relates to their patch. The group opposite wanted to introduce a committee system but it seems they want to keep all the processes attached to a cabinet system as well. Clearly they don't really know what they want.

I'm astounded by the Council meeting question. . It is quite correct that the number of Council meetings have been reduced from 8 to 7 per year. But this was done under the previous administration, not under this one. All my administration has done is move the scheduling of Council meetings to better fit the business which is required to be undertaken. There are still 7 Council meetings in this Municipal Year.

I trust the facts which I have set out above satisfy Cllr Cutts but let me be 100% clear. I will not take lessons in democracy from someone who under her Leadership had a rule which only allowed a member to speak once at a committee and who stifled democratic debate. I will not take lessons from someone who presided over a meeting of a Policy Committee which lasted for four minutes and where no comments from any members were allowed in order that she could leave to watch Margaret Thatcher's funeral on the television.

Far from undermining the committee system this administration has embraced it and improved it. Proper debate is allowed in meetings and all members from all sides of the chamber can and do participate in proper debate. All committees are empowered to make decisions. Under the previous administration it was only Policy Committee that was allowed to agree anything. As an administration we have been willing to be flexible when meetings are held in order to ensure meetings occur when needed and not simply because they are diarised a year in advance at that time and date. We are using the system properly and to best effect.

Proper debate. Full agendas. Meetings held when required in order to properly conduct the business of this council. It doesn't sound like a democratic deficit to me Chairman but a well-managed and transparent system of governance.

Question to the Chairman of Transport & Highways Committee from Councillor Sue Saddington

Is the Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee aware of the damage caused to surrounding roads by the high levels of traffic (including heavy goods vehicles) diverted onto them during the extended closure of Kelham Bridge?

Can he give assurance to road users in my division that these highways will be properly and swiftly repaired?

Response from Councillor Kevin Greaves, Chairman of Transport & Highways Committee

I am aware of the damage caused to surrounding roads as a result of the closure of Kelham Bridge which is why a package of measures are being considered including:

Carriageway repairs

One way streets

Environmental weight limits

In order to reduce delays to the travelling public in future to closures of the bridge.

Question to the Chairman of Transport & Highways Committee from Councillor Philip Owen

Could the Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee state when the bus plug camera on Nottingham Road in Nuthall will be enforced?

Response from Councillor Kevin Greaves, Chairman of Transport & Highways Committee

The bus gate at Nuthall remains enforceable, as it has been for several years. There is no change to that situation.

It is accepted that currently enforcement is a police matter, and they will only be available to undertake enforcement alongside their other duties.

Therefore camera enforcement is proposed. By the removal of through traffic during the evening rush hour, there will be a benefit to local bus service by making journey times more reliable.

Following a resolution at the Full County Council Meeting on 25th April and the discussion at the Transport and Highways Committee on 6th June, further work has now been undertaken.

We are now establishing a greater detail of feasibility for providing an exemption for some of the local residents. There will be a schedule of consideration at the Transport and Highways Committee on 9th January 2014.

The work conducted on the feasibility of an exemption, for local residents, have included the following:

Consideration of detailed practicalities,

Technical considerations.

And legality of such an arrangement, which unfortunately has taken some time to pull together, due to its complicated nature.

Considerable provision has already been made for local residents through junction improvements in order to provide alternative access during the hours of the restriction, which is only during the evening rush hour.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Clarification of Minutes of Committee Meetings published since the last meeting on 21st November 2013

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members the opportunity to raise any matters of clarification on the minutes of Committee meetings published since the last meeting of Full Council on 21st November 2013.

Information and Advice

2. The following minutes of Committees have been published since the last meeting of Full Council on 21st November 2013 and are accessible via the Council website:- <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx>

Committee meeting	Minutes of meeting
Adult Social Care and Health Committee	28 th October, 25 th November
Appeals Sub-Committee	9 th October?
Audit Committee	11 th September
Children & Young People's Committee	11 th November, 9 th December
Community Safety Committee	5 th November
Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee	16 th September
Culture Committee	8 th October
Economic Development Committee	19 th November, 12 th December
Environment and Sustainability Committee	14 th November, 12 th December*
Finance and Property Committee	11 th November, 16 th December*
Grant Aid Sub-Committee	3 rd September
Health Scrutiny Committee	4 th November
Health & Well Being Board	6 th November
Joint City/County Health Scrutiny Committee	12 th November, 10 th December
Joint Committee on Strategic Planning and Transport	20 th September
Nottinghamshire Pensions Fund Committee	24 th September
Pensions Investment Sub-Committee	2 nd September
Pensions Sub-Committee	None
Personnel Committee	None
Planning & Licensing Committee	12 th November, 6 th December*
Police & Crime Panel	30 th October

Committee meeting	Minutes of meeting
Policy Committee	13 th November, 11 th December
Rights of Way Committee	16 th October, 27 th November*
Transport and Highways Committee	31 st October, 28 th November

* Minutes expected to be published before 16th January 2014, but not yet approved by the relevant Committee.

Mick Burrows
Chief Executive

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE****Purpose of the report**

1. To seek Council approval for the establishment of a Joint Committee of local authorities in the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, (the Economic Prosperity Committee or EPC) to drive future investment in growth and jobs within the areas.

Information and advice

2. Councils across Nottinghamshire have recognised that there is an opportunity to strengthen joint working and decision making by establishing an Economic Prosperity Committee. In July 2013 the council Leaders and Mayor across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire made a commitment to work more closely together to drive future investment in growth and jobs.
3. The EPC will improve joint working and decision making, with better links to the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), and in doing so maximise access to European and Government funding for growth, for the benefit of Nottinghamshire. In parallel, Derby and Derbyshire councils are establishing similar arrangements.
4. The role and responsibilities of LEPs have grown since their inception. Over the next few months, Local Growth Deals will be negotiated with all LEPs. These are the successor to City Deals, enabling access to investment and new powers. The Government will consider a range of factors when negotiating Deals, including the strength of local partnerships such as Joint Committees and the strength and alignment of local plans. LEPs have also been invited to develop their approaches for the European Structural and Investment Funds (SIF) for 2014-2020 - D2N2 is currently consulting on how to prioritise its notional allocation in excess of £210m.
5. The new governance arrangements will support the LEP in the following ways:
 - Enable full engagement with all district councils, strengthening the LEP's democratic mandate;
 - Ensure that growth plans realise the LEPs strategy for growth and its vision of creating a more prosperous, better connected, increasingly resilient and competitive economy;

- Demonstrate how local strategies and plans are aligned to maximise impact and fulfil Government funding criteria;
 - Recommend priorities for investment of some LEP funds (at present the single Local Growth Fund and the European Structural Investment Funds - variously contracted to SIF or ESI), based on local knowledge;
 - Help simplify the local government landscape for business because important investment decisions will be made in one place.
6. The LEP has endorsed this approach. Support to the LEP will be maximised by having such arrangements in both Nottingham/Nottinghamshire and Derby/Derbyshire.
 7. Further consideration will be given to a work programme for the EPC (and how that work programme will be supported), as Government policy is evolving. An example of such a consideration is how the EPC's work will link to wider activity on the skills agenda.
 8. The Economic Prosperity Committee is likely to have its first formal meeting in the early spring of 2014. A report on the outcomes achieved through the Economic Prosperity Committee and their implications for Nottinghamshire will be taken to the County Council's Policy Committee in April 2015 and annually thereafter. The report back to Policy Committee will focus on investment secured in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire through the Economic Prosperity Committee and the activities supported. The Economic Development and Highways and Transport Committees will consider specific projects the County Council has responsibility to deliver that are supported by investment through the Economic Prosperity Committee.

Consultation to date

9. D2N2 recommended this approach with its Board on 3 September. D2N2 consulted on SIF funding over the summer of 2013. The Nottinghamshire Leaders / Mayor were consulted on the formation of a joint committee on 6 September, following the Nottinghamshire Chief Executives being consulted on this approach on 23 August. Information was made available to all the relevant Legal and Democratic teams via a working group between 24 September and 8 November 2013.
10. The Leader, Deputy Leader and Chair of Economic Development Committee have been consulted on this report. The Chief Executive and relevant officers from Legal and Democratic Services have been actively involved in the development of these proposals. All of the constituent local authorities within the LEP are progressing the proposal through their individual governance structures and have contributed to the development of the terms of reference and constitution for the EPC. The D2N2 LEP Board have also discussed and approved the proposals to create a Joint Committee.

Other Options Considered

11. Do nothing. The LEP could maintain its current governance structure which has functioned effectively to date. However, more formal arrangements will ensure that decisions are made in a more co-ordinated way that achieves maximum benefit for the economic area. Also, it is clear from Government Guidance that: the LEP is less likely to be successful in any bid to the single Local Growth Fund without enhanced governance; and that it would be less able to negotiate a Growth Deal; and that its governance arrangements would not be seen as robust when taking decisions over significant levels of funding.
12. Alternative governance models such as a Combined Authority or a Prosperity Board have been considered, but at this stage a Joint Committee is regarded by the constituent authorities as the most appropriate option. It is the only option deliverable within the necessary timescales.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. Proposals for the establishment of an EPC have been developed to further strengthen the current governance arrangements of the D2N2 LEP and provide the necessary democratic accountability for the management of LEP funding streams such as the single Local Growth Fund and for strategic decision making on investment in growth and jobs in the City and County. The proposal provides democratic decision making for the allocation of funds within the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire jurisdiction of the LEP.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.
15. Section 101(5) Local Government Act 1972 enables two or more local authorities to discharge any of their functions jointly and arrange for the discharge of those functions by a Joint Committee.
16. Section 9EB of the 2000 Act enables the Secretary of State to make Regulations permitting arrangements under Section 101 (5) where any of the functions are the responsibility of the executive of the authority. The relevant regulations are the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions)(England) Regulations 2012/1019.
17. Regulation 11 makes provision for joint arrangements to involve a joint committee under Section 101(5) of the 1972 Act. As all the functions being delegated to the EPC are executive functions, the Regulations and Council's constitution allow the decision to establish the EPC and determine the number of members to be appointed to the EPC and their terms of office to be made by the Leader or Executive Mayor or other relevant decision maker or body. The regulations also

require that the members appointed to the EPC should be members of the Executive.

18. Regulation 12 covers membership of joint committees and confirms political balance would not apply. Where, as in the case of the EPC, all the powers that are being exercised are executive functions, the regulations do not allow for any co-option by the constituent authorities operating under executive arrangements (although that power exists for the constituent authorities where the governance is by committee). A pragmatic approach would therefore be not to permit co-option to the committee. Where it is considered beneficial for non-members, for example a representative of D2N2 to contribute to the proceedings of the EPC, the Chair of the Committee may however invite members of the public to attend and speak.
19. Any FoI requests received by the EPC should be directed to the relevant constituent authority for that to deal with in the usual way, taking account of the relevant legislation. Where the request relates to information held by 2 or more constituent authorities, they will liaise with each other before replying to the request. The host authority will co-ordinate responses to ensure that legislative deadlines are met.
20. As part of the process of making decisions and changing policy, the EPC will be required by law, under the public sector equality duty, to think about the need to:
 - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics (as defined by equalities legislation) and those who don't.
 - Foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those who don't.

Financial Implications

1. The Joint Committee provides a mechanism through which its constituent authorities can engage with the LEP on investment priorities across the Nottinghamshire area. This will provide a mechanism for accessing funds earmarked for Nottinghamshire by the D2N2 LEP including £213.4m of EU growth funding and an amount yet to be received by D2N2 under the single Local Growth Fund element of the D2N2's Local Growth Deal.
2. It is proposed that the Joint Committee's secretarial, legal and financial support services will be provided Nottingham City Council with the resultant costs being shared equally between the member authorities. It is estimated that such services will cost approximately £30,000 leading to a cost per authority of around £3,300 per annum. Travel and subsistence costs relating to the Joint Committee will be met by individual constituent authorities.
3. It should be noted that these costs do not include any allowance for technical advice and support which, if provided on a central basis for the Joint Committee, would lead to additional costs being incurred. As the Joint Committee develops, it will need to be determined whether such costs will also

be shared equally between the constituent authorities or whether an alternate model, such as a management charge levied against individual schemes, would need to be introduced.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1. It is recommended that the Council:
 - (a) Agrees to the establishment of the Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC) as a joint committee of the following local authorities: Ashfield District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council, Mansfield District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council (“the constituent authorities”);
 - (b) Agrees the Constitution (Terms of Reference, Membership and procedures) of the Economic Prosperity Committee as set out at Appendix A;
 - (c) Notes that any relevant powers previously delegated by the Leader/Executive to individuals or bodies are not expressly withdrawn and will be held concurrently;
 - (d) Appoints the Leader of the Council as the Council’s representative on the EPC and the Chair of the Economic Development Committee to act as substitute;
 - (e) Agrees to Nottingham City Council hosting the Committee and providing all necessary secretarial, legal and financial support services, (including S151 and Monitoring Officer roles) and the annual costs involved (estimated to be around £30,000), to be met in equal share by the constituent authorities, until such time as that this can be recovered in part or in whole from external funding streams;
 - (f) Agrees that this Council’s annual contribution to the cost of servicing the Committee in the estimated sum of around £3,300 be met from the Economic Development Committee budget and that any expenses for subsistence or travel in relation to the attendance of Councillors at meetings on EPC business be met by the individual authorities from existing budget provision for Members’ allowances;
 - (g) Notes that an annual report on the Economic Prosperity Committee will be brought back to the Council’s Policy Committee commencing April 2015;
 - (h) Notes that, for the reasons set out in the report, the Committee will have no powers to co-opt.

Report author: Jayne Francis Ward, Corporate Director Policy Planning and Corporate Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Jayne Francis Ward, ext 73478

Constitutional Comments (SLB 07.01.2014)

21. Council is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report; it has responsibility for establishing committees and authorising appointments to any joint committees.

Financial Comments (SEM 07.01.2014)

22. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- BIS:Growth Deals, Initial Guidance for Local Enterprise Partnerships, July 2013
- D2N2: DRAFT EU Structural and Investment Funds Strategy 2014-2020
- D2N2: DRAFT Strategic Economic Plan

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

APPENDIX

Appendix A - The draft Constitution for the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee.

The City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee

Constitution (terms of reference, membership and procedure rules)

1. Purpose

To bring together local authority partners in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in a robust, formally constituted arrangement which will drive future investment in growth¹ and jobs in the City and County.

2. Governance

2.1 The Economic Prosperity Committee (“EPC”) will act as a Joint Committee under Section 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 and pursuant to Regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012.

2.2 The EPC will comprise the local authorities within the Nottinghamshire area: Ashfield District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council, Mansfield District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council (“constituent authorities”).

2.3 Political Proportionality rules will not apply to the EPC as so constituted.

2.4 The EPC will be a legally constituted body with powers delegated to it by the constituent authorities in the following areas:

- a) to prioritise and make decisions on the use of the funding that the EPC may influence or control;
- b) to review future governance requirements and delivery arrangements and how these can be best achieved in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire;
- c) to have direct oversight of key economic growth focussed projects and initiatives that the EPC has influence over the funding of or contributes to;
- d) to have strategic oversight of other key growth focussed projects and initiatives in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

The EPC will not hold funds or monies on behalf of the constituent authorities.

2.5 The EPC’s work plan and the outcome of any wider review into alternative governance may require a change in the delegated powers and terms of

¹ As exercised through the D2N2 LEP.

reference of the EPC and any such change would require the approval of all the constituent authorities.

3. Remit

3.1 The remit of the EPC will be:

- a) to act as a local public sector decision making body for strategic economic development, and to make recommendations to the D2N2 LEP on its investment and other priorities;
- b) to prioritise, commission and monitor both investment plans and all European Structural Investment Funds (SIF), and Single Local Growth Fund money that is available to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire via the D2N2 LEP and the EPC;
- c) to oversee the alignment of relevant local authority plans and ensure that they contribute to economic growth;
- d) to actively engage with a range of businesses in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in relation to the EPC's decision making, and to engage with other stakeholders where appropriate;
- e) to consider and advise on the appropriateness and viability of alternative, successor economic governance arrangements;
- f) to ensure that potential benefits stemming from any overlaps with other LEPs are fully maximised.

4. Membership

- 4.1 One member from each constituent authority (such member to be the Leader/Elected Mayor or other executive member or committee chairman from each constituent authority) and for the purposes of these terms of reference this member will be known as the principal member.
- 4.2 Each constituent authority to have a named substitute member who must be an executive member where the authority operates executive governance arrangements. In those constituent authorities where governance is by committee, that alternate member shall be as per that authority's rules of substitution. All constituent authorities must provide no less than twenty four hours' notice to either the Chairman or the Secretary where a substitute member will be attending in place of the principal member. Regardless of any such notification, where both the principal member and the substitute member attends a meeting of the EPC the principal member shall be deemed as representing their authority by the Chairman or Vice Chair.
- 4.3 In the event of any voting member of the EPC ceasing to be a member of the constituent authority which appointed him/her, the relevant constituent authority shall as soon as reasonably practicable appoint another voting member in his/her place.
- 4.4 Where a member of the EPC ceases to be a Leader / Elected Mayor of the constituent authority which appointed him/her or ceases to be a member of the Executive or Committee Chairman of the constituent authority which appointed

him/her, he/she shall also cease to be a member of the EPC and the relevant constituent authority shall as soon as reasonably practicable appoint another voting member in his/her place.

- 4.5 Each constituent authority may remove its principal member or substitute member and appoint a different member or substitute as per that authority's rules of substitution, and by providing twenty four hours' notice to the Chairman or the Secretary.
- 4.6 Co-options onto the Committee are not permitted.
- 4.7 Each constituent authority may individually terminate its membership of the EPC by providing twelve months written notice of its intent to leave the EPC to the Chairman or the Secretary. At the end of these twelve months, but not before, the authority will be deemed to no longer be a member of the EPC.
- 4.8 Where an authority has previously terminated its membership of the EPC it may re-join the EPC with immediate effect on the same terms as existed prior to its departure, where the EPC agrees to that authority re-joining via a majority vote.

5. Quorum

- 5.1 The quorum shall be 6 members. No business will be transacted at a meeting unless a quorum exists at the beginning of a meeting. If at the beginning of any meeting, the Chairman or Secretary after counting the members present declares that a quorum is not present, the meeting shall stand adjourned.

6. Chairman and Vice Chairman

- 6.1 The chairmanship of the EPC will rotate annually between the principal member of the City of Nottingham and the principal member of Nottinghamshire County Council. The position of Vice Chairman shall be filled by the principal member of one of the district/borough council members of the EPC and this role will rotate annually between district/borough councils. The Chairman or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairman or in his/her absence the member of the EPC elected for this purpose, shall preside at any meeting of the EPC.
- 6.2 Appointments will be made in May of each year. The first appointments will be made part way through the municipal year and will continue until May 2015, unless otherwise agreed.
- 6.3 Where, at any meeting or part of a meeting of the EPC both the Chairman and Vice Chairman are either absent or unable to act as Chairman or Vice Chairman, the EPC shall elect one of the members of the EPC present at the meeting to preside for the balance of that meeting or part of the meeting, as appropriate. For the avoidance of doubt, the role of Chairman and Vice-Chairman vests in the principal member concerned and in their absence the role of Chairman or Vice-Chairman will not automatically fall to the relevant constituent authority's substitute member.

7. Voting

- 7.1 One member, one vote for each constituent authority.
- 7.2 All questions shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the members present, the Chairman having the casting vote in addition to his/her vote as a member of the Committee. Voting at meetings shall be by show of hands.
- 7.3 On the requisition of any two Members, made before the vote is taken, the voting on any matter shall be recorded by the Secretary so as to show how each Member voted and there shall also be recorded the name of any Member present who abstained from voting.

8. Sub-Committees and Advisory Groups

- 8.1 The EPC may appoint sub-committees from its membership as required to enable it to execute its responsibilities effectively and may delegate tasks and powers to the sub-committee as it sees fit.
- 8.2 The EPC may set up advisory groups as required to enable it to execute its responsibilities effectively and may delegate tasks as it sees fit to these bodies, which may be formed of officers or members of the constituent authorities or such third parties as the EPC considers appropriate.

9. Hosting and Administration

- 9.1 The EPC will be hosted by Nottingham City Council and the Director of Legal and Democratic Services from that authority shall be Secretary to the Committee ("the Secretary"). The Host Authority will also provide s151 and Monitoring Officer roles and legal advice to the EPC. The administrative costs of supporting the committee will be met equally by the constituent authorities, with each authority being responsible for receiving and paying any travel or subsistence claims from its own members.
- 9.2 The functions of the Secretary shall be:
 - a) to maintain a record of membership of the EPC and any sub-committees or advisory groups appointed;
 - b) to publish and notify the proper officers of each constituent authority of any anticipated "key decisions" to be taken by the EPC to enable the requirements as to formal notice of key decisions as given under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 to be met;
 - c) to carry out such notification to and consultation with members of any appointing constituent authority as may be necessary to enable the EPC to take urgent "key decisions" in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012;
 - d) to summon meetings of the EPC or any sub-committees or advisory groups;

- e) to prepare and send out the agenda for meetings of the EPC or any sub-committees or advisory groups; in consultation with the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Committee (or sub-committee/ advisory group);
- f) to keep a record of the proceedings of the EPC or any sub-committees or advisory groups, including those in attendance, declarations of interests, and to publish the minutes;
- g) to take such administrative action as may be necessary to give effect to decisions of the EPC or any sub-committees or advisory groups;
- h) to perform such other functions as may be determined by the EPC from time to time.

10. Meetings

10.1 The EPC will meet no less than quarterly and meetings will be aligned where necessary with deadlines for decisions on resources and investment plans.

10.2 Meetings will be held at such times, dates and places as may be notified to the members of the EPC by the Secretary, being such time, place and location as the EPC shall from time to time resolve. Meeting papers will be circulated five clear working days in advance of any meeting. The Chairman may choose to accept or reject urgent items that are tabled at any meeting.

10.3 Additional ad hoc meetings may be called by the Secretary, in consultation, where practicable, with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, in response to receipt of a request in writing, which request sets out an urgent item of business within the functions of the EPC, addressed to the Secretary:

- (a) from and signed by two members of the EPC, or
- (b) from the Chief Executive of any of the constituent authorities.

10.4 Urgent, virtual meetings facilitated via teleconference, video conferencing or other remote working methodologies may be called by the Secretary, in consultation, where practicable, with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the EPC, in response to receipt of a request in writing, which request sets out an urgent item of business within the functions of the EPC, addressed to the Secretary:

- (a) from and signed by two members of the EPC; or
- (b) from the Chief Executive of any of the constituent authorities.

Any such virtual meeting must comply with the access to information provisions and enable public access to proceedings.

10.5 The Secretary shall settle the agenda for any meeting of the EPC after consulting, where practicable, the Chairman or in their absence the Vice Chairman; and shall incorporate in the agenda any items of business and any reports submitted by:

- (a) the Chief Executive of any of the constituent authorities;
- (b) the Chief Finance Officer to any of the constituent authorities;

- (c) the Monitoring Officer to any of the constituent authorities;
- (d) the officer responsible for economic development at any of the constituent authorities; or
- (e) any two Members of the EPC.

10.6 The EPC shall, unless the person presiding at the meeting or the EPC determines otherwise in respect of that meeting, conduct its business in accordance with the procedure rules set out in paragraph 13 below.

11. Access to Information

11.1 Meetings of the EPC will be held in public except where confidential or exempt information, as defined in the Local Government Act 1972, is being discussed.

11.2 These rules do not affect any more specific rights to information contained elsewhere under the law.

11.3 The Secretary will ensure that the relevant legislation relating to access to information is complied with. Each constituent authority is to co-operate with the Secretary in fulfilling any requirements.

11.4 Any Freedom of Information Act requests received by the EPC should be directed to the relevant constituent authority(s) for that authority to deal with in the usual way, taking account of the relevant legislation. Where the request relates to information held by two or more constituent authorities, they will liaise with each other before replying to the request.

12. Attendance at meetings

12.1 The Chairman may invite any person, whether a member or officer of one of the constituent authorities or a third party, to attend the meeting and speak on any matter before the EPC.

12.2 Third parties may be invited to attend the EPC on a standing basis following a unanimous vote of those present and voting.

12.3 Where agenda items require independent experts or speakers, the Officer or authority proposing the agenda item should indicate this to the Secretary and provide the Secretary with details of who is required to attend and in what capacity. The participation of independent experts or speakers in EPC meetings will be subject to the discretion of the Chair.

13. Procedure Rules

13.1 Attendance

13.1.1 At every meeting, it shall be the responsibility of each member to enter his/her name on an attendance record provided by the Secretary from which attendance at the meeting will be recorded.

13.2 Order of Business

13.2.1 Subject to paragraph 13.2.2, the order of business at each meeting of the EPC will be:

- i. Apologies for absence
- ii. Declarations of interests
- iii. Approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the last meeting
- iv. Matters set out in the agenda for the meeting which will clearly indicate which are key decisions and which are not
- v. Matters on the agenda for the meeting which, in the opinion of the Secretary are likely to be considered in the absence of the press and public

13.2.2 The person presiding at the meeting may vary the order of business at the meeting.

13.3 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

13.3.1 If a Member is aware that he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, the Member must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held:

- (a) in the case where paragraph 13.3.2 below applies, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence;
- (b) in any other case, wherever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at that meeting;

unless the Member has obtained a dispensation from their own authority's Standards Committee or Monitoring Officer. Such dispensation to be notified to the Secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting.

13.3.2 Where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest in any business of the EPC, the Member may attend the meeting (or a sub –committee or advisory group of the committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

13.4 Minutes

13.4.1 There will be no discussion or motion made in respect of the minutes other except as to their accuracy. If no such question is raised or if it is raised then as soon as it has been disposed of, the Chairman shall sign the minutes.

13.5 Rules of Debate

13.5.1 Respect for the Chairman

A Member wishing to speak shall address the Chairman and direct their comments to the question being discussed. The Chairman shall decide the order in which to take representations from members wishing to speak and shall decide all questions of order. His/her ruling upon all such questions or upon matters arising in debate shall be final and shall not be open to discussion.

13.5.2 Motions / Amendments

A motion or amendment shall not be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded. When a motion is under debate no other motion shall be moved except the following:

- i. To amend the motion
- ii. To adjourn the meeting
- iii. To adjourn the debate or consideration of the item
- iv. To proceed to the next business
- v. That the question now be put
- vi. That a member be not further heard or do leave the meeting
- vii. To exclude the press and public under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972

13.6 Conduct of Members

13.6.1 Members of the EPC will be subject to their own authority's Code of Conduct.

14. Application to Sub-Committees

14.1 The procedure rules and also the Access to Information provisions set out at paragraph 11 shall apply to meetings of any sub-committees of the EPC.

15. Scrutiny of decisions

15.1 Each constituent authority which operates executive arrangements will be able to scrutinise the decisions of the EPC in accordance with that constituent authority's overview and scrutiny arrangements.

16. Winding up of the EPC

16.1 The EPC may be wound up immediately by a unanimous vote of all constituent authorities.

17. Amendment of this Constitution.

17.1 This Constitution can only be amended by resolution of each of the constituent authorities.

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**STRATEGIC PLAN 2014 - 2018****Purpose of the Report**

1. To agree the Council's Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018, following the recent public consultation exercise.

Information and Advice

2. In September 2013 Policy Committee considered the first draft of the new Strategic Plan and agreed that the public should be consulted on it. The Strategic Plan is the key plan of the Council and its purpose is to:

Provide a clear statement of the Council's priorities, promises and values;
Enable agreed political objectives and statutory requirements to drive the Council's activities;
Enable the communication of the Council's priorities to staff, partner organisations and the community of Nottinghamshire as a whole;
Provide a broad framework of objectives and targets to allow the performance management of the Council and on which other key strategies and policies of the Council can be based including the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Asset Management Plan;
Meet the expectation of key external inspection agencies

3. The development of the Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018 has been undertaken against a difficult and prolonged financial backdrop coupled with a rising demand for our services. The Strategic Plan aims to reflect the priorities of the administration and to focus our efforts on the people who need it most. The Plan is structured around three key values and five priorities.
4. These priorities are supported by a number of outcomes that we want to achieve, how we will assess how we have done this and what the role of the County Council is in achieving outcomes. The plan has been drafted in such a way that makes it easier to performance manage with clear outcomes and measurables defined to ensure we can demonstrate progress. Further details of this will be outlined in the annual Council Delivery Plan 2014-15 which will be considered by Policy Committee in April.

Consultation Response

5. The consultation on the Strategic Plan ran from 18 September until 25 October and the public were asked three specific questions in relation to the Plan as well as broader questions in relation to the Budget Challenge;
- Having considered the **three core values** do you think there is anything else the Council needs to focus on?
 - Having considered the **five priority areas** do you think there is anything else the Council needs to focus on?
 - Are there any **further comments** that you would like the Council to consider when developing the Strategic Plan and/or budget for 2014/15?
6. Responses to the questions asked were diverse, but can be summarised into three broad groups. Firstly, local residents with a general awareness of the services provided by the County Council, who were keen to raise a specific issue concerning the challenges facing Nottinghamshire. The second group could be identified as service users as they raised specific concerns and suggestions around specific service areas with which they are clearly knowledgeable. The final group of respondents were County Council employees who raised concerns or made suggestions in relation to their own area of work.
7. The overall feedback received from all three groups was predominantly positive with over 80% of people strongly agreeing or agreeing with the core values in the Plan. Specific concerns were raised around key areas of service delivery, the majority of which were already included within the priorities of the Strategic Plan. The format and design of the draft plan were complimented as being clear, concise and straight forward. Feedback received has been used to help shape and simplify the language used within the Plan. Minor revisions have been made to the wording to ensure it is clear and concise.

Proposed Changes to the Core Values

8. The consensus of responses was overwhelmingly supportive of the three core values, with the caveat that they were general and did not include the further detail which will be part of the Council's Annual Delivery Plan. The revised version now contains a simple explanation of the purpose and timescale of the new Strategic Plan. It also makes reference to the supporting Annual Delivery Plan, where the details of what and how we plan to achieve our stated outcomes will be published.
9. The following text has been included inside the front cover to explain the purpose of the Strategic Plan and to make reference to the Delivery Plan where the detail of what is planned will be published. *"The Strategic Plan covers the period from 2014 to 2018 and provides a clear statement of the Council's priorities, promises and values. It is designed to be concise but also to encompass key areas of service delivery, agreed Council objectives and statutory requirements. Greater detail as to what and how we plan to achieve these outcomes for each financial year will be published as part of the Council's Delivery Plan".*

Proposed Changes to the priorities

10. The feedback in relation to the five priorities areas was also mainly positive. However, priority five 'helping you achieve your potential' received a lower level of support (only 57% of residents

agreed with this priority) than the other four priorities. The service areas, outcomes and aspirations that underpin priority five were also overwhelmingly supported, with a strong emphasis on the importance of prioritising support for children, families and youth services. In order to address this discrepancy between the overall priority and its constituent parts, the language of the Plan has been changed so that it accurately represents public support for this key area of service delivery.

11. The following text is proposed to replace the existing wording to priority five on page 16. Changing the priority heading from 'helping you achieve your potential' to 'Investing in our future' and including the following text *"We want Nottinghamshire to be a place where everyone is able to enjoy a good quality of life. Ensuring that children, young people and families are supported is an investment in our future, for all residents in Nottinghamshire. This investment needs to ensure that services that support attainment and achievement are primarily focussed toward those young people, families and communities in greatest need."*

Further comments from the consultation

12. The further comments question provoked the most varied response, from which it is less easy to establish a coherent picture. However, a number of responses emphasised the need for the County Council to concentrate on its 'core services' and 'to get the basics right'. It is proposed that this feedback is integrated into the new Delivery Plan (currently in development and planned to be considered by Policy Committee on 2 April 2014) which would be the appropriate place to demonstrate this focus and commitment.

Other Options Considered

13. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. The Strategic Plan has been developed in accordance with the Policy Framework to reflect the vision and priorities of the Council for the next 4 years and has been informed by public consultation.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.
16. The final Strategic Plan will direct and/or advance the Council's policy in respect of a number of these areas. The Council will also need to have regard to any statutory and policy considerations in the future development of key plans that will be required through the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that

1. Council agree the Strategic Plan for 2014-18.

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Celia Morris, Group Manager Corporate Strategy x72043

Constitutional Comments (SLB 23/12/2013)

Council is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SEM 06/01/14)

There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Budget Challenge 2014-15 Summary of Results 1st November 2013 and Comments on Draft Strategic Plan

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Strategic Plan

2014 - 2018

treating
people fairly

value
for money

working
together



The Strategic Plan covers the period from 2014 to 2018 and provides a clear statement of the Council's priorities, promises and values. It is designed to be concise but also to encompass key areas of service delivery, agreed Council objectives and statutory requirements. Greater detail as to what and how we plan to achieve these outcomes for each financial year will be published as part of the Council's Delivery Plan.

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- 16 Investing in our future

Introduction

Nottinghamshire County Council has never before faced such a difficult financial outlook with reducing Government grants and rising need for our services. All of this is against a backdrop of a long period of austerity with many households facing their own financial struggles.

Despite this picture, we still have a budget in excess of £500m per year and remain a key provider of services. The County Council is committed to ensuring that we provide life enhancing services, focusing our efforts on those people who most need our support.

We have a duty to rise to the financial challenge ahead and make sure that we cut our cloth accordingly to our diminishing means. This will involve some very tough choices, considering options that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago.

Our decisions will only be made after listening to your views and we will continue to support the most vulnerable in our society. While we have to make tough decisions, we will strive to make the right ones by being guided by the right values. Within the limits of the reduced amount of money available, we want to build the best possible

future where people develop the right skills to get jobs and ensure that the county's economy gets moving again.

Ensuring that Nottinghamshire thrives is our over-riding ambition: a place where people can achieve a good life for themselves through hard work; a place where vibrant and active communities flourish; a place where public services help improve people's lives and protect the most vulnerable.

Economic Growth will be key to securing this future and we want to ensure that this Council does everything it can to kick-start the economy and give this County the future that its residents and businesses truly deserve.



Councillor Alan Rhodes
Leader of the County Council



Mick Burrows
Chief Executive

Our **vision** for
Nottinghamshire is

**To be a
better place
to live, work
and visit**

Our values

Our plans will be built on three clear values which we will use to guide our decision-making through the years ahead. In working to deliver our plan we will need to be innovative and creative. We will enable our staff, utilising their skills and experience, to find innovative and creative approaches and new ways of working.

Treating people fairly

We will create a culture which treats people fairly and where resources are targeted to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

We will make sure that we focus on improving the lives of those least able to help themselves – the most vulnerable children, young people and adults in our communities.

We also want to make sure that those who need the most support get it so that everyone gets the opportunity to fulfil their potential

We will deliver high standards of customer care and respond to what we hear from our customers.

Value for Money

We have already heard that the amount of money available to spend is reducing considerably. In order to protect front-line services as much as we can, we will need to make sure that every penny is spent wisely and effectively.

Above all though, we have to live within our means. Many of our choices will be forced upon us due to the worsening financial position that we are being placed in.

There is a cost to running any Council but we will continue to make sure that all spend is cost-effective.

Working together

The County Council acts as a community leader for Nottinghamshire and we will work with our partners and residents to ensure we prioritise our resources to get the best for our communities. We will make choices only once we have listened to what communities want and need.

One of the ways that we can also be more efficient is to work more closely with our partners across the public, business and voluntary sector. By joining forces with others we can make sure that we deliver improved outcomes.





Our funding

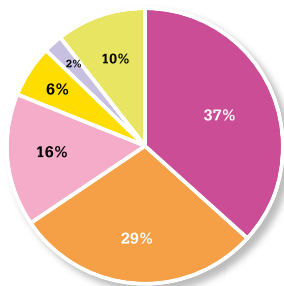
Funding from Central Government has been cut over successive years and this trend looks likely to continue into the future. In the last four years Nottinghamshire County Council has delivered over £100m of savings to deal with cuts in grant and allow for reinvestment in essential frontline services.

The latest Government spending review shows that total Government Grants have reduced from £274m in 2011/12 to £255m in 2013. It's estimated that there will be a further £79m cut to our income over the next 3 years.

The cuts come at the same time as unprecedented demand and spiralling costs for council services for the elderly and vulnerable children, due to people living longer and a substantial increase in the number of children being taken into care. Spending on Adult Social Care and Health and Children's services already accounts for two thirds of the County Council's entire budget.

Over the next 3 years we anticipate the cost for these services to increase further with £37m of pressures affecting the whole Council.

By 2017 the County Council expects to receive in the region of £480m through Council Tax and Government Grants. However it is estimated it will need approximately £634m to deliver all of the services that it currently provides, leaving a funding gap of £154m.



Breakdown of the Council's budget:-

For 2013/14

Care for vulnerable adults and the elderly	£217m
Care and support for young people	£171m
Roads, waste and the environment	£92m
Public Health	£35m
Cultural services, including libraries	£14m
Other services	£61m
Total	£590m

Reducing our costs

We are committed to maximising spend on front-line services to ensure that local people have access to good, value for money services that they want and need. To do this we will strive to be as efficient as possible and minimise our running costs, wherever possible exploiting opportunities to share services with other organisations.

We will get best value from our assets, maximise use of technology and ensure our workforce has the right skills, is empowered to make decisions and actively contributes to the continuous improvement of services.

Specifically we will:

- Review the way we work to ensure that our processes are centred on the customer and are as streamlined as possible
- Improve integration between our services and with other service providers to maximise the use of resources and share costs
- Learn from the expertise of others and be creative in adopting a more commercial approach
- Make use of new technology in order to improve services, increase efficiencies and help our customers access our services in the way that most meets their needs including services on-line
- Develop digital communication channels and platforms which are designed around customer needs and which support the delivery of key transformation programmes
- Continue to maximise value with our suppliers through improved procurement and contract management
- Fully explore the potential to share services with partner organisations in order to maximise value for money
- Actively manage recruitment to ensure that only the most essential posts are filled
- Continue to reduce our office accommodation, freeing up surplus buildings and reducing costs
- Introduce modern working environments and practices to enable our staff to be as effective and efficient as possible whilst reducing costs.
- Explore opportunities to develop the income generating potential of our assets, such as through advertising
- Adopt a more integrated and rigorous performance management system to enable managers to make timely decisions and improve service outcomes [Page 53 of 70](#)

Our priorities

This Strategic Plan sets out what the County Council is planning to achieve, how we will measure our progress and the role we will take to help achieve each outcome. We feel that if we do the right things in the right way, we can prioritise our resources to make a real difference for all our residents.

We have proposed the five Strategic Priorities below; these priorities will be consulted on as part of the wider 'Budget Challenge' consultation process during September and October 2013, before a formal decision is made. We are aware there are key services that our residents really value; we will work to transform these services to ensure they make the most from the available budget.

- Supporting safe and thriving communities
- Protecting the environment
- Supporting economic growth and employment
- Providing care and promoting health
- Investing in our future

These priorities represent what we plan to do, with each service we provide making a contribution to achieving our planned outcomes and through the work we will do in partnership with others.

Priority one

Supporting safe and thriving communities

Having strong communities that are safe and thriving is one of the County Council's top priorities. We can only achieve this by working in partnership with local communities, the police and voluntary sector. We recognise the important contribution made by the voluntary and community sector in Nottinghamshire, both in providing valuable services and ensuring that local communities have a voice. We will continue to provide grant aid to voluntary groups to support the provision of non statutory services which complement our strategic priorities.

Protecting vulnerable children, young people and adults accounts for a large proportion of our budget and is one of our most important areas of work. We will change the ways in which we operate to improve the coordination and effectiveness of our Safeguarding arrangements. Protecting the health of all local people is also a priority, making sure our communities are resilient and any emergency response is coordinated to help keep people safe.

As demands on the road network continue to grow, it is increasingly important to manage the network effectively to enable improved connectivity and ensure the efficient movement of people and goods. We will undertake a thorough review of the condition of our roads and pavements. We will assist more children to be able to walk and cycle to and from school in a safer environment, by reducing the speed limit outside schools to 20 mph.

The safety of wider communities is also a priority and we will ensure that we work closely with the Police & Crime Commissioner to introduce measures that will help reduce crime and the fear of crime.

Finally a safer trading environment and the protection of rights of the consumer and legitimate businesses will continue to be championed. We will innovate and adopt new ways of working, which promote working in partnership with businesses to make Nottinghamshire a fair and safe place to do business.

What we will deliver

outcome

how we will measure progress

role of the Council

The most vulnerable children and adults will be effectively protected and supported

Improve the quality and robustness of our Safeguarding Plans

We will work with our partners from the Police, Health, Education and other agencies to ensure our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub is a success

The public are confident that Nottinghamshire is a safe and secure place to live and work

Improve the perception of how safe people feel in their local area

Work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to reduce crime and the fear of crime

Casualties on Nottinghamshire's roads continue to reduce

Reduce the number killed or seriously injured on Nottinghamshire's roads

We will maintain roads in a serviceable condition and seek to change behaviour through engineering measures, awareness raising and enforcement.

Nottinghamshire is a fair and safe place to do business

Increase the number of partnerships with businesses to support the local economy and help them to trade lawfully

We will champion the rights of the consumer and target our support to protect the vulnerable

The health and safety of local people are protected by organisations working together

A multi-agency plan is agreed to lead a response across partners to health emergencies from infectious diseases, environmental, and chemical hazards.

Through the Director of Public Health, we will provide leadership across partner organisations to protect the health and safety of local people.

Priority two

Protecting the environment

Nottinghamshire is a unique county with a heritage and countryside that we all want to protect and promote. We will ensure our environment is well managed and our countryside is protected. We need road and transport systems that are fit for purpose and help companies to invest in Nottinghamshire. We will provide a reliable transport system which supports a growing economy whilst encouraging sustainable and healthy travel. We will ensure we are well prepared during severe weather by gritting major roads and bus routes to help both residents and businesses carry on as normal.

Looking after the environment is the responsibility of us all. We can influence some key aspects of this environmental protection through determining major planning permissions for new developments such as schools, libraries, elderly person's homes and roads. We will also seek to deliver our services in new ways that limit the environmental impact of our properties, vehicles and resources. We will continue to invest in sustainable technology that helps to reduce our carbon footprint. We aim to minimise the impacts of transport on people's lives, maximise opportunities to improve the environment and help tackle carbon emissions.

We want to ensure that the county's heritage is preserved and can be enjoyed by all. Our country parks and open spaces provide an attractive environment that we will promote for both residents and visitors.

However some protection is best provided by working in partnership with other agencies. For example, by ensuring our Emergency Plans are robust and we respond well to help communities recover from the effects of emergencies, such as flooding. Delivering this protection involves ensuring that we provide leadership but act in partnership with other agencies.

We are committed to helping ensure that all residents of Nottinghamshire have the opportunity and means to protect and enjoy the environment. We will work with our partners and residents to reduce the amount of household waste generated and increase the percentage that we recycle. We will encourage people to get involved and help to protect, restore and improve our countryside by volunteering with a local wildlife group or conservation organisation.

What we will deliver

outcome

how we will measure progress

role of the Council

Our countryside is protected and attracts more visitors

Increase satisfaction levels with our Country Parks and most visited sites (Rufford and Sherwood)

Work with partners to act as a champion protecting the environment within Nottinghamshire

People in Nottinghamshire are encouraged to help protect the environment

The amount of household waste that is recycled will increase and the amount sent to landfill will reduce

More people in local communities will work to improve the environment

Work in partnership with district councils and the private sector to provide waste management facilities and encourage changes in behaviour

The environmental impact of providing County Council services is reduced

Reduce our level of carbon dioxide emissions, especially from the use of energy in our buildings and street lighting

Act as a community leader, by using the resources and expertise of the council to reduce our environmental impact

The roads and transport infrastructure in Nottinghamshire is fit for purpose

Maintain the condition of roads and footways

Deliver a road and transport infrastructure that seeks to meet the needs of our residents and businesses

Connectivity across the county and into the region will be improved

Work to improve bus punctuality and ease congestion on key routes within the county

Proportion of people walking or cycling for short journeys

Work in partnership with bus companies and community transport providers to improve usage of public transport

Priority three

Supporting economic growth and employment

Economic prosperity has a crucial impact on people's quality of life, health and wellbeing. The County's economy has experienced major restructuring over the last 20 years presenting challenges to businesses, communities and individuals alike. Economic performance is now broadly comparable to the East Midlands and United Kingdom however there are significant differentials in economic performance in parts of the county and issues that require attention. Income levels across the county are lower than the UK average; business failures recently have been higher than business start ups; low skill levels remain a significant concern in some areas and access to training and employment is a particular challenge for young people.

We want to see a county where jobs are created, skills are developed, young people have a better chance of employment and wage levels are lifted. As one of the largest employers in the county we will pay the Living Wage and encourage other employers, including our suppliers, to adopt good working practices. In areas where councils have implemented the Living Wage it has provided an important boost to the local economy. It increases the spending power of people and as lower paid workers tend to spend a greater proportion of their income on necessities locally, this all helps our economy.

Whilst economic growth is largely generated through business creation and expansion the County Council will work with the Local Enterprise Partnerships (D2N2 and Sheffield City Region) to create the right conditions for growth. We will provide improved road and broadband infrastructure; unlock physical redevelopment such as new employment and housing sites; encourage investment opportunities; support local businesses to take advantage of the support and finance available to grow and create an environment for new business start ups. We will ensure Nottinghamshire receives its fair share of government and European funding to support economic growth.

Youth unemployment has been growing since 2005 and the transition from learning to work has become increasingly difficult. Ensuring our young people have the right skills and are prepared for the world of work is a key priority and we will create more apprenticeships and training opportunities and work with schools to ensure young people are 'work ready' and can make the right career choices for them.



What we will deliver

outcome

how we will measure progress

role of the Council

Economic growth is stimulated by unlocking employment sites

Increase the number of employment sites

To lead on securing additional investment from the government, D2N2 and Europe to unlock physical redevelopment and invest council resources in key capital investments that deliver growth

We have attractive and economically vibrant towns

The number of new physical redevelopment schemes in town centres

To identify relevant towns and work in partnership with town centre groups to co-ordinate activities

Barriers to growth are minimised by improving countywide infrastructure

Increase the % of people with access to high speed broadband

The number of major local transport schemes

Champion for growth in the county – influencing the government, business community and partners to create the best conditions for sustainable growth

To ensure all council employees are paid a fair rate of pay and increase the spending power of local communities

All centrally employed staff to be paid the living wage with effect from April 2014

To be a good employer and encourage other employers in the county to adopt good employment practices including payment of the living wage

Training and apprenticeship opportunities for the local workforce are provided that reflect the needs of businesses

An increase in the number of apprenticeships and training opportunities

The council will use its procurement of goods and services to drive sustainable business, improved local supply chains and more opportunities for a skilled workforce

More young people will be in work, education or training.

Reduce the % of children not in education, employment or training (NEET)

Closer working between schools, higher education, further education and employers to develop young people for early identifiable career pathways

We will work with partners to increase the competitiveness of Nottinghamshire by creating the conditions to grow an increasingly skilled and productive workforce. We will provide additional apprenticeship places for young people.

Priority four

Providing care and promoting health

The health of people in Nottinghamshire is improving but not at the same rate for everyone. Some groups have worse health outcomes that are a consequence of where they are born, live, work and age. This health inequalities gap between advantaged and disadvantaged groups will continue to widen unless action is taken with partners to address differences in local need. Working with the Health and Well-Being Board we will improve integration between health and social care providers.

The provision of quality social care and health services for children, adults and the vulnerable has always been a priority for the County Council. However the provision of these services is facing the new challenge of increasing demand due to an ageing population with the positive expectation of people being supported to live longer, healthier and more independent lives. Demand is also increasing in terms of services for Younger Adults, due to positive advances in medical care for those with disabilities and complex needs.

This means we have unprecedented demand for services at a time of significant financial constraints. We will always consider the needs and preferences of the individual, but we have a responsibility to balance this against the effective and efficient use of resources.

We will develop individual and community resources to prevent, delay and reduce the need for care and support. We will support more people to live at home and encourage and stimulate an efficient, diverse, affordable and high quality social care and health market. Providing services in a different way means working in partnership with NHS, private and voluntary colleagues to integrate care and health services. It also requires increased prioritisation of our limited resources to the areas of greatest demand and inequality across the county.

For many older people, traditional residential care does not meet their needs. We need to find alternative solutions, such as building additional **Extra Care Housing** across the County that will offer independent living with added security of health and assistance on hand when required. With an ageing population, where Alzheimers and Dementia are becoming an increasing problem, we need to develop a strategy that ensures all our services are delivered with **care and compassion**.

We will expect to share responsibility with individuals, families and communities for their health and well-being. The formal provision of services by council and health employees is often underpinned by informal support provided by Carers. The variety of people who act as Carers in Nottinghamshire is broad and ranges from the very young to older people with their own health concerns. The type of support a Carer requires can also vary dramatically; we therefore need to ensure we work with partners to provide appropriate support – especially for young carers. The role and reliance on Carers will only increase with an ageing population and an emphasis on enabling people to continue to live at home.

What we will deliver

outcome

how we will measure progress

role of the Council

People with health and social care needs are able to maintain a satisfactory quality of life

Improved feedback from service users and use of surveys.

We will provide leadership, with an emphasis on developing individual and community resources, designed to prevent, delay or reduce the need for care and support

Enable people to live independently and reduce their need for care and support

Gradual reduction in the number of people in long-term residential care

We will work together with partners to develop the social care market in Nottinghamshire, offering more affordable and high-quality choices in the types of care available to enable people to live independently in their own homes for longer.

People have a positive experience of care and health support

More people living independently in their own home for longer

We will regularly consult and involve local people to ensure that they have more say in the type of care and how they receive it

Improved integration within health care delivers improved services focussed on those with the greatest need

Improve the satisfaction of people using services and carers

We will use our influence and set an example to encourage people to change their behaviour and positively affect their health and well-being

The health inequalities gap is narrowed improving both health and well-being

Effective health and well being interventions are targeted to where they are most needed

We will work in partnership to maximise the use of resources to target the areas of greatest need, highest demand and tackle inequality

Priority five

Investing in our future

We want Nottinghamshire to be a place where everyone is able to enjoy a good quality of life. Ensuring that children, young people and families are supported is an investment in our future, for all residents in Nottinghamshire. This investment needs to ensure that services that support attainment and achievement are primarily focussed toward those young people, families and communities in greatest need.

Educational attainment has been a priority for Nottinghamshire for many years and exam results are progressively improving for all age groups. However, there are still inequalities and the outcomes for some groups of pupils are not as high as they could be. We are committed to securing excellence in education for all and we want to enable all young people in Nottinghamshire to fulfil their potential. We also want to support young people to choose the right learning pathway for them – whether this is, further education, higher education, apprenticeship or employment.

We will work with all schools to encourage strong partnership working and a focus on outcomes. We will prioritise significant funding to invest in schools to ensure the provision of school places where they are most needed. We will continue to fund the refurbishment and renovation of our school buildings to ensure they provide a safe and suitable learning environment.

We aim to tackle child poverty and social exclusion by working with parents-to-be, parents, carers and children to promote physical, intellectual and social development of babies and young children so they have the best start in life. Youth services enable young people to have a voice and a positive place in their communities and society and provide young people in Nottinghamshire with something to do, somewhere to go and someone to talk to in the form of young groups, mobile youth projects and events.

What we will deliver

outcome	how we will measure progress	role of the Council
Our children and young people will attain higher educational standards than the national average in good and outstanding schools	Increase the % of children achieving 5 or more A* to C grades at GCSE - including both maths and english	We will work with schools to challenge poor standards and provide support to help deliver improvements
The attainment gap in education continues to close for all ages	Narrow the attainment gap at ages 11 and 16 between pupils eligible for free school meals and the rest	We will ensure that support is targeted where there are the most profound gaps in educational attainment
Additional school places will be available where they are most needed	Increase the number of children getting their first choice primary school	We will identify areas with the greatest pressure and demand for school places and prioritise these schools for future investment
Children and young people receive the help and support they require to be safe and thrive	Increase the proportion of children achieving a 'good level of development' in the Early Years Foundation Stage	We will target our resources to provide services that help children and young people to thrive to areas of greatest need
Young people are supported to reach their potential	Reduce the % of children not in education, employment or training (NEET)	We will ensure that effective advice and guidance is available to support children in choosing the most appropriate career pathway



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REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**CONDUCT ISSUES****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Council on Government guidance in respect of registering and declaring interests.
2. To seek approval in principle to amendments to the procedure for dealing with complaints in relation to the Code of Conduct

Information and Advice

3. Council adopted the current Code of Conduct for Councillors and Co-opted Members (the Code) in May 2012. In September 2013 the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) revised its guidance on openness and transparency of councillors' personal interests to state that membership of a trade union is a personal, non-pecuniary interest that should be declared in meetings as a private interest as appropriate, but also recorded in Councillors' and Co-opted Members' register of interests. Sponsorship by a trade union is already a registerable interest.
4. In light of this guidance, Councillors and Co-opted Members may wish to consider circumstances where it would be appropriate to declare any membership of a trade union as a private interest. Advice can be sought from the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services. It is not proposed to update the declarations of interest form as the formal legal requirements have not changed, but any Councillor or Co-Opted Member who wishes to register their membership of a trade union may do so.
5. When the current Code of Conduct was adopted Council also approved a procedure for dealing with complaints. The procedure currently provides for any complaints that are investigated to be referred to Policy Committee for formal action but it is now acknowledged that there would be practical difficulties with this approach. A review of the arrangements for dealing with complaints adopted by other local authorities has been undertaken.
6. Following that review it is proposed that a Conduct/Standards Committee be established to meet as required to consider complaints. The Committee would be

politically balanced and the Council's appointed Independent Persons would have an open invitation to attend all such meetings.

7. If members are supportive of this proposal it is proposed that a further report be brought to the next Council meeting setting out the Terms of Reference of such a Conduct/Standards Committee together with a revised complaints process

Other Options Considered

8. To keep the procedure unchanged in respect of Policy Committee dealing with complaints.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. To ensure the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors and Co-Opted Members is fit for purpose, and to ensure complaints are dealt with fairly and efficiently.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) To note the DCLG guidance regarding openness and transparency on personal interests.
- 2) To agree to the establishment of a Conduct/Standards Committee and to bring a further report to the February Council meeting setting out the terms of reference and detailed working arrangements for the Committee.

Councillor Alan Rhodes
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Jayne Francis-Ward
Corporate Director Policy Planning and Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer

Constitutional Comments ([SB 8/1/2014

11. Council has the Authority to agree the recommendations.

Financial Comments

12. There are no financial implications arising from this report

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Department for Communities and Local Government – Openness and transparency on personal interests (published)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

