

Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 (10.30 am – 4.51 pm)

**Membership**

Persons absent are marked with `A`

**COUNCILLORS**

Thomas A J Pettengell (Chairman)

Keith Walker (Vice Chairman)

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

## **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Jon Collins – Chair of Nottinghamshire Police Authority

## **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mick Burrows	(Chief Executive)
Jayne Francis-Ward	(Assistant Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer)
Tim Gregory	(Environment & Resources)
David Pearson	(Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection)
Anthony May	(Children, Families & Cultural Services)
Rob Skelton	(Children, Families & Cultural Services)
Carl Bilbey	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Claire Dixon	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Martin Done	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Chris Holmes	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Lyndsey Parnell	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Daniel Reynafarje	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Daniel Roberts	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Alan Sumbly	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)

## **OPENING PRAYER**

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

## **AGENDA ORDER**

The Chairman changed the order of the agenda to take the question to the Chair of the Police Authority after question 1 within item 6a - Questions Under Standing Order 7.1.

## **1. MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED: 2011/016**

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the County Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2011 be agreed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fiona Asbury, Michelle Gent, Geoff Merry, Sheila Place and Les Ward.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Steve Carr declared a personal interest in agenda items 8 – Treasury Management Annual Report 2009/10 and 9 – Treasury Management Policy Statement and Strategy for 2011/12 as he was an employee of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

## **4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

The Chairman and Councillors Mrs Kay Cutts, Stella Smedley MBE JP, Ken Rigby and June Stendall spoke in tribute to the late George Dobson.

## **5. PETITIONS**

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

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

1. Councillor Chris Winterton & Councillor Stephen Garner– Petition requesting that yellow lines be painted and enforced on the junction of Earlswood Drive and Big Barn Lane, Mansfield.
2. Councillor Stan Heptinstall MBE – Petition regarding a Bus Stop in Bramcote.
3. Councillor Wendy Quigley – Petition requesting a Pedestrian Crossing on London Road, Retford.
4. Councillor Allen Clarke – Petition to improve road safety in Phoenix Ward in Gedling Borough.
5. Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle – Petition regarding the Osberton/Scofton bus service.

6. Councillor Martin Wright – Petition against the budget cuts made to the Mansfield Citizens Advice Bureau.
7. Councillor Darrell Pulk – Petition against the reduction in the Supporting People budget.
8. Councillor Darrell Pulk – Petition against the cuts to Social Care in the Community particularly warden services.
9. Councillor Ken Rigby – Petition against the reduction in the opening hours of Kimberley Library.

**RESOLVED: 2011/017**

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

**(b) REPORT BACK ON PETITIONS**

**RESOLVED: 2011/018**

That the contents and proposed actions in the report back on petitions received on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2011 be noted and the petitioners be informed accordingly.

**6. QUESTIONS**

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

Two questions had been received as follows:-

1. from Councillor Alan Rhodes about the extension of the tram system (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)
2. from Councillor Stella Smedley MBE JP about the accounts of the Citizens' Advice Bureau (Councillor Mick Murphy replied)

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

The question to the Chair of the Police Authority was taken before question 2 of questions under Standing Order 7.1.

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

Four questions had been received as follows:-

1. from Councillor Chris Winterton about the closure of Police contact bases (Councillor Jon Collins, Chair of the Nottinghamshire Police Authority replied)
2. from Councillor Sybil Fielding about fire service provision and recent fire deaths (Councillor Darrell Pulk, Chair of the Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire Authority replied)
3. from Councillor Stella Smedley MBE JP about the implementation of the findings of the Fire Cover Review (Councillor Darrell Pulk, Chair of the Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire Authority replied)
4. from Councillor Joyce Bosnjak about the Chairman's use of the County Council civic car to attend Fire Authority meetings (Question withdrawn by Councillor Joyce Bosnjak).

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

## **7. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS**

### **(a) CABINET MEMBERS**

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

### **RESOLVED 2011/19**

That the reports from Cabinet Members be noted.

During consideration of these reports, Council adjourned from 12.30 pm until 1.30 pm for lunch.

**(b) CHAIR OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

Councillor Joyce Bosnjak presented the report. The report was seconded by Councillor Sue Saddington.

**RESOLVED 2011/020**

That the report be noted.

**8. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10**

Councillor Reg Adair introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/021 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Carol Pepper.

**RESOLVED: 2011/021**

That the Treasury Management activity for 2009/10 be approved.

**9. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT AND STRATEGY FOR 2011/12**

Councillor Reg Adair introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/022 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Carol Pepper.

**RESOLVED: 2011/022**

1. That CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes be formally adopted along with the clauses at paragraphs 3(a) to (d) of the report.
2. That the following be approved as detailed in the report for 2011/12:
  - the Treasury Management Policy Statement
  - the Approved Lending List
  - the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators
  - the Treasury Management Strategy.

**10. DEVELOPMENT OF THIRD LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Councillor Richard Jackson introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/023 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Carol Pepper.

**RESOLVED: 2011/023**

1. That the third Local Transport Plan strategy be approved for submission.
2. That the third Local Transport Plan implementation plan be approved for submission, including the programme of transport improvements for 2011/12.

**11. A. UNANNOUNCED ANNUAL INSPECTION OF CONTACT, REFERRAL AND ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

**B. STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE**

Councillor Philip Owen introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/024 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Allen Clarke.

**RESOLVED: 2011/024**

1. That the OFSTED letter of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011 be noted.
2. That the statement of intent for Children's Social Care be noted.

**12. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2012/13**

An addendum to the report was circulated prior to the meeting proposing to no longer change the Published Admission Number for Richard Bonington Primary.

Councillor Philip Owen introduced the report along with the addendum and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/025 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Keith Girling.

**RESOLVED: 2011/025**

- (1) That the general admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2012-2013 be approved to include:
  - the planned admission numbers (PANs) for 2012-2013 as attached (Appendix 1), subject to the PAN for Richard Bonington Primary and Nursery School remaining at 50;
  - the oversubscription criteria as attached (Appendix 2);
- (2) That the co-ordinated and in-year admission schemes for 2012-2013 and new timelines for 2012-2013 be approved (Appendix 3)
- (3)
  - i) That Hawtonville Junior School and Oliver Quibell Infant School (Cleveland Green Federation), Christ Church CE Infant School and Bowbridge Primary School become link schools with the Magnus CE School, with consequent realignment of the catchment areas of those schools from the Grove School catchment area;
  - ii) That Governors of the Magnus CE School, which is its own admission authority, be recommended to note these arrangements.
- (4) That the necessary additional consultation in relation to linking Heathlands Primary School with Joseph Whitaker School, an own admission authority, by Nottinghamshire County Council, be noted.

**13. OFFICER SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/026 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Suthers OBE.

**RESOLVED: 2011/026**

1. That the revised Scheme of Delegation set out in Appendix A to the report be agreed and adopted into the Council's Constitution in place of the current scheme.

2. That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to make all necessary consequential amendments to the Constitution.
3. That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to amend the Scheme of Delegation to Officers to give effect to any further changes to departmental or staffing structures, and to make any consequential constitutional changes necessary with the proviso that other changes to the Scheme will be reported to Council for agreement and adoption into the Constitution.

#### **14. ICT STRATEGY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Councillor Reg Adair introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/027 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Suthers OBE.

#### **RESOLVED: 2011/027**

That the ICT Strategy 2011-2014 and Information Management Strategy 2011-2014 be approved.

#### **15. THE NHS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGES**

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/028 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Carol Pepper.

#### **RESOLVED: 2011/028**

1. That a Health and Wellbeing Board be established.
2. That the Health and Wellbeing Board be given the power to set up sub structures.
3. That the membership of the Board be comprised of:
  - the Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council
  - the Deputy Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council
  - Cabinet Member for Finance and Property, Nottinghamshire County Council
  - One opposition Member from the Labour Group (Leader or Deputy Leader or their nominee) and one from the

Liberal Democrat Group (Leader or Deputy Leader or their nominee)

- One representative from two District Councils
- the Director of Adult Social Services, Nottinghamshire County Council
- the Director of Children's Services, Nottinghamshire County Council
- the Director of Public Health
- a representative of Local HealthWatch
- one representative of each of the GP Consortia
- a representative from the NHS Commissioning Board.

And that all the above be given voting rights.

4. That the representatives from District and Borough Councils be appointed by the Nottinghamshire Local Authorities Association.
5. That Councillor Martin Suthers OBE be appointed Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## **16. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor Jason Zadrozny introduced the motion along with some minor revisions and moved the motion in terms of the resolution 2011/029 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Keith Longdon.

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

### **RESOLVED: 2011/029**

1. That this Council notes with concern that:
  - a.) High street banks are planning to stop accepting cheques despite protest from consumer groups and businesses;
  - b.) In December 2009, the Payments Council agreed on behalf of the major banks to scrap cheques in 2018;
  - c.) Nearly four million cheques are still being written each day and that many people still prefer to pay for goods and services in this way;

d.) Many people and organisations including the elderly, businesses, and charities would be seriously affected as a result;

2. That this Council notes that 126 MPs from all parties have signed Early Day Motion 258 calling for the banks to reconsider their proposals. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010, David Ward MP presented a 10 minute rule bill to the House of Commons which would place a duty on the City Regulator, the Financial Services Authority, to ensure that cheques stay in use until suitable alternatives are found and that the Bill will be debated in June 2011.
3. This Council therefore calls upon the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister expressing this Council's concern about the plans to abolish cheques and urging him to provide Parliamentary time to ensure that the Bill is passed into law.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 4.51 pm

**CHAIRMAN**

M\_31MAR11

## **APPENDIX A**

### **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2011**

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

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

With the recent announcement that the Government has given the green light to extend the tram system deep into the County, including Chilwell and Beeston, does the Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways regret not keeping faith with the project?

Will he apologise to the people of those areas for selling them short by relinquishing County Council control of the tram extension, due to his short-term thinking and political dogma?

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

“Thank you, Chairman and can I thank Councillor Rhodes for his question, which gives me a welcome opportunity this week to make the position of this Conservative administration absolutely clear.

From the first announcement of plans and routes for the NET Phase Two project, it became obvious that a significant number of people living in Beeston, Chilwell, Wilford and West Bridgford objected to the proposed scheme.

Despite attempts by Labour and Liberal Democrat politicians to dismiss this as nimbyism, it was obvious that opposition was not restricted only to those living near to the route.

Since that time, the anticipated costs of the NET Phase Two scheme have spiralled, leading more people in these areas and across the county to express concern and opposition to the proposals.

It has been clear for most of that time that Labour and the Liberal Democrats support NET Phase Two, although Labour politicians in particular were at one time notably wary of expressing that support within earshot of local objectors.

I remember a former Leader of this Council promising the elderly residents of Neville Sadler Court that he would lie down in front of the bulldozers rather than see their residential care home demolished.

Such was the strength of feeling over NET Phase Two in the Beeston, Chilwell and West Bridgford areas, it would have seemed very unhealthy for democracy had one of the major parties not represented the views of objectors on such a major issue.

In the 2009 Conservative County manifesto we stated our view that the bus service offers the best solution as an alternative to the motor car in Nottinghamshire. We stated that we would avoid spending a small fortune on tram extensions which few people in the county would be able to use.

Contrary to press reports before the 2009 County elections we did not claim that we would stop the proposed tram routes, but we did make it clear we opposed the scheme as planned. We promised that we would withdraw Nottinghamshire County Council from it if we were elected and did so.

I don't think I need to remind Councillor Rhodes that residents of Beeston South and Attenborough, Chilwell and Toton, residents of West Bridgford Central and South and West Bridgford West all returned Conservative councillors to County Hall, and that residents of Nottinghamshire returned the first Conservative administration for 28 years.

Since the election, we have made every effort to deliver on our manifesto commitments. Councillor Rhodes may regard it as "short-term thinking and political dogma", but it is not. We regard it as keeping our promise to the electorate. We did indeed withdraw Nottinghamshire County Council from NET Phase Two.

At a national level, the Coalition Government has decided to give the green light to the project and we heard earlier this week that a new consortium, Tramlink Nottingham, is set to operate the extended system.

Nottingham City Council are clearly determined to proceed and we shall see over time how the project progresses and how a Workplace Parking Levy is received.

My view and that of this Conservative administration has not changed from the outset. We were more frank and more honest about our position than our political opponents. We believe that the proposed tram network extension is not the best financial or practical public transport solution for the Nottinghamshire area and we have no regrets whatsoever about protecting the County Council taxpayer from what is as yet an unknown final cost.

Furthermore, I do understand the frustration of many residents in Beeston, Chilwell, Toton, West Bridgford and across the county who don't believe NET Phase Two is the right solution.

To dispel a myth, the notion that our withdrawal from the scheme denies us any influence is absolute nonsense. In truth, our powers as a highway authority give

us control over the operation of the highway irrespective of whether or not we are a promoter of the tram.

The permission to build the tram comes from the Public Inquiry of 2007. Phase Two can only be constructed in line with the Public Inquiry findings and the subsequent Transport & Works Act Order so to imply, as opposition Members have, that the lines will somehow be worse as a result of our withdrawal is also nonsense.

I am bitterly disappointed Chairman that in these horrendous economic times the tram extension has been seen as a greater priority than dualling the A453, a key road link between Nottingham and the M1 which has been in dire need of improvement for several decades.

Given that Labour and the Liberal Democrats are a committed supporter of the tram, it is a shame that they could not present alternative budgets last month which showed how they would have funded this Council's contributions to all this, protect services and staff and address Labour's legacy as the highest taxing shire council in the country. I wonder which public transport schemes or services they would have dropped to have paid for this folly."

**Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety from Councillor Stella Smedley MBE JP**

At the County Council's budget meeting in February, the Cabinet Member for Community Safety stated that the Citizens' Advice Bureau had refused to provide copies of their accounts for inspection, and the County Council had to subsequently apply for copies through the Charity Commission.

I understand from colleagues at the Citizens' Advice Bureau that this was not the case at all.

Can he provide the details surrounding his accusation that the CAB failed to provide information about their accounts to the County Council?

**Response by Councillor Mick Murphy Cabinet Member for Community Safety:**

"I cannot recall the exact words that I used on the day of the budget meeting, but neither do I wish to avoid Councillor Smedley's question.

The council minutes do not record the content of speeches made during the budget meeting and in my written speech there were no references to the Citizens' Advice Bureaux refusing to provide copies of their accounts for inspection.

I do ab-lib at times in the heat of the budget debate and if I stated that the Citizens' Advice Bureau refused to provide copies of their accounts, then I was incorrect to do so and I apologise to the Bureaus and to this Council. That would be an error on my part

The correct position, and what I should have said was, that it proved difficult in some cases to obtain the accounts and staffing statistics from the Citizens' Advice Bureaux by the specified deadline. Some Bureaux had the accounts prepared but not yet ratified at their Annual General Meetings, so they were unable to provide the very latest figures. Because of this, our officers gathered a significant amount of information from the Charities Commission website and in some cases worked with confirmed data from the previous year.

This does not change the overall theme of my speech at the County Council budget meeting, which was that all organisations in receipt of public money must challenge themselves to use those resources as effectively as possible and efficiently.

I am pleased that the Nottinghamshire Citizens' Advice Bureaux are amongst those that will benefit from the decision by this Council to reinstate £450,000 of voluntary grant aid to our original proposed savings, in direct response to the outcomes of the Big Budget Conversation."

## **APPENDIX B**

### **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2011**

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

##### **Question to the Chairman of Nottinghamshire Police Authority from Councillor Chris Winterton**

Can the Chair of the Police Authority explain to elderly residents of Mansfield how the closure of Police contact bases at Hickling Court, Shireoaks Court and William Kaye Hall can be justified by saying that Mansfield Police Station is within walking distance.

These bases are a source of reassurance to local people, and their removal will erode the perception and quality of local policing.

Can he inform the County Council if any similar cuts to bases are planned in the City of Nottingham, as it would appear that most of the cuts are being made in the County.

Is a lesser service in the County the price that we will have to pay for two-tier policing in the County and City?

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

“The decision to close Hickling Court, Shireoaks Court, William Kaye Hall together with nine other contact points and bases was taken unanimously by the Police Authority and on the advice of the Chief Constable as a way of reducing cost. None of the three bases Councillor Winterton refers to have front counters or regular police presence, and during the last year recorded no visits and no phone calls from members of the public.

Indeed Hickling Court has not been used operationally for some time without any concerns raised by members of the public. Shireoaks Court is only occasionally used as a drop in by PC and PCSO while William Kaye Hall is used as an occasional drop in by three PC's and three PCSO's. The District Council are happy for this to continue even though the Force will no longer be paying the rent.

Notwithstanding all of this, Police Officers in the area are confident that the public will see no discernable impact as a result of these changes. The current closures are the first phase of a wider estate strategy which is likely to be published for consultation during the coming months. Of the 12 bases planned for closure, six have received no visits or calls from members of the public, two haven't been used operationally for some time, and of the six which have received visits or

phone calls, the average is less than three phone calls and two visits a week. The most heavily used base planned for closure is Wollaton Police Station and while it is the only one in the city in the first phase of proposals last year it recorded 68 visits and 285 phone calls.

Finally can I say that the service the Force provides does and will always address the needs of the community throughout Nottinghamshire equally and with the same intent to provide a first class service and to continue to drive down crime. However, and this has always been the case, the County has more Police Officers, more budget and during the last year has lost fewer Police Officers through savings than the City.

Furthermore, while crime is down across Nottinghamshire by 14.4% to date, I am pleased to say the fall has been faster in the County than in the City. 17.2% reduction in the County compared to a 9.7% reduction in the City. Hardly, I would suggest, the characteristics of a two-tier service.”

#### **Question to the Chair of Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire Authority from Councillor Sybil Fielding**

Bearing in mind that fire deaths in Nottingham City and County, annually, are normally in single figures, the three deaths at Clifton, Worksop and Ashfield, all in high risk areas in short succession, cause me great concern.

The fire deaths at Worksop and Clifton both occurred at times and places identified within the Fire Cover Review as having under provision. Could the Chair of the Fire Authority advise me as to what actions the service is undertaking to address the shortfall in cover in the Worksop area?

#### **Response by Councillor Darrell Pulk, Chair of the Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire Authority:**

“Before I answer, I’ll just reassure members of this Council and members of the public that the three tragic deaths that have occurred in short succession also cause me great concern but none of them were a result of inadequate fire cover in the incidents certainly in Clifton and Worksop. The people involved in these tragedies were actually dead before the fire service was alerted. I think one suffered a heart attack and one suffered a stroke. I’ll mention that as a matter of record as I don’t want people getting alarmed.

As you will be aware, Councillor Fielding, the Fire Cover Review was comprehensive and holistically looked at current operational arrangements and delivery outcomes around where the service should concentrate on addressing its resources in the forthcoming years. The Chief Fire Officer’s report has been statistically qualified and verified by Nottinghamshire Trent University, and I personally believe it to be a robust risk management assessment. Whilst the Fire Authority Review Group take time to look at the findings of the review, they have

sought reassurance of the Chief Fire Officer on more than more occasion as to what arrangements are being put in place to address any interim concerns. I have been advised that in the short term, his operation managers are making a daily assessment of fire appliances availability to ensure all areas are covered and that includes Worksop. If the Chief Fire Officer feels the need to move appliances on a daily basis then this is part of his duty and responsibility as covered in the Fire Services Act which gives the Chief Fire Officer the duty under law regarding operational matters.

In the medium term the Chief Fire Officer asked as a matter of urgency for a report from his Fire Cover Review Team about what interim arrangements can be put in place to help address any issues in short fall as identified in the Fire Cover Review. Pending the outcome of the Review Group, we will have to look at a holistic approach to what happens. You will of course appreciate the assessment from the Fire Cover Review Team has to be thorough and will take a little time as there are logistic arrangements in moving any fire appliances and crews which needs to be accommodated. The Chief Fire Officer is expecting this report very shortly. So in other words, he has a team of officers looking at implications within the review in terms of short fall, and when he gets that report back he'll make sure that the adequate cover is provided.

My primary concern is, and I am sure it is yours as well Mr Chairman and Members of this authority, both for the communities we serve and the staff within the operation organisation. Both have been considered as part of the review. I hope this clarifies this situation.”

**Question to the Chair of Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire Authority from Councillor Stella Smedley MBE JP**

Having read in the Nottingham Post that Fire Authority member Councillor Zadrozny is reported as saying that members will not act on any of the Fire Cover Review findings for at least twelve months, would the Chair of the Fire Authority reassure me that the Chief Fire Officer is using his professional judgement to address any shortfalls identified in the fire cover review in the Ollerton area?

**Response by Councillor Darrell Pulk, Chair of the Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire Authority:**

“I am surprised that Councillor Zadrozny has information regarding whether the Review Group and the Authority will conclude its deliberation of the Fire Cover Review. I am unaware of any firm decision being made with regard to any time frame for the Review Group to report and this is a matter for the six members of that group and not a matter for Councillor Zadrozny on his own.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Members in this council chamber who are working hard to arrange meetings for the Fire Cover Review, that includes Councillor Carroll and Councillor Wheeler, who are both quite anxious to

push things forward. I am given to believe that, after some delay, the first meeting will actually be next Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April. All Groups have nominated their representatives to serve so I am hopeful that things will move quickly from this point forward. There will be six members on this Group. I think there are five members from within this chamber and one member from the City Council.

With regards to any interim arrangements I refer you to the previous response to Councillor Fielding. The Chief Fire Officer is monitoring the situation. His officers will make daily arrangements if they believe the cover is lacking in any area due to appliance availability. Once his interim report has been received the Chief Fire Officer will make any arrangements he sees fit to meet the needs both of the service and the community. Obviously that is pending the outcome of the Review Group and the Authority. On my part, the Chief Fire Officer and I will continue to maintain our scheduled visits to all station departments across the County and to date we have sat down and discussed the issues with over 300 operational staff. Clearly staff are interested with what arrangements we have to put in place in the long term. People have been quite open to listen and to understand the issues that we have got. Staff do understand the financial difficulties services face as following the 36% cut to our grant and are anxious that issues identified within the review are addressed sooner rather than later.

The worst thing you can do is say you are going to do something, sit on it and nothing happens. All you do is spread uncertainty and insecurity. I trust this helps clarify the current state of the Fire Cover Review and the Chief Fire Officers arrangement.”

**Question to the Chair of Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire Authority from Councillor Joyce Bosnjak**

As a member of the public I recently attended a meeting of the Combined Fire Authority and noticed that the Chairman of the County Council arrived in the civic car.

Could the Chair of the Fire Authority please advise me how often the Chairman of the County Council uses his official civic vehicle and chauffeur to attend Fire Authority meetings, and which Authority, Fire or County, bears the cost?

**Question withdrawn by Councillor Joyce Bosnjak**