

## **APPENDIX A**

### **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

#### **Question to the Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee from Councillor Andrew Brown**

Would the Chairman of Communities and Place join me in welcoming recent news that up to 14,000 new jobs will be created at and around East Midlands Airport, and does he share my belief that even more jobs will materialise in the future, given the perfect location of this site at the heart of the UK for air and land-based freight operations?

In view of these fantastic opportunities on our doorstep, does he understand the frustration of residents of most villages in my division that they still have no direct bus service to the airport, or to the new Roxhill Gateway Development, or to East Midlands Parkway Station, meaning they face a round trip of up to two hours to access a site which should be only a 10-15 minute bus drive away?

This frustration is compounded by the knowledge that a 'Skylink Express' service bypasses these villages every day as it travels between the airport and Nottingham; while another Skylink service stops regularly on its way through Beeston, Chilwell and Toton; and a further Skylink service has just been announced to serve East Staffordshire, which lies many miles West of the airport.

Would the Committee Chairman agree that residents in my division deserve a bus service which gives them direct access to these jobs, as well as the flights on offer, and will he investigate every possible way of delivering this for the benefit of these villages and businesses?

#### **Response from Councillor John Cottee, Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee**

Thank you, Councillor Brown, for your question. I know this is a major issue for residents of the division you share with Councillor Adair, and one which you have raised before through a Constituency Issues speech to this Council, and at other committee meetings.

As part of the forthcoming Transport Review, our officers will be considering how the County Council in partnership with local bus operators can deliver the ambitions of the Council's Strategic Plan, and specifically the Place Department element of the Plan, to improve connectivity and access to the emerging job opportunities across the County and the East Midlands, which of course includes the airport and the East Midlands Enterprise Gateway (or EMEG for short). Officers are already engaged with a group of key EMEG stakeholders, which includes the adjoining counties of Leicestershire and Derbyshire, the District Councils, major employers such as MandS, DHL, SEGRO, and local bus operators, all with a view to delivering our Public Transport Strategy.

Good progress has already been made with the Skylink network which is now largely commercial, but as you rightly say, the 'Skylink Express' service, whilst valuable to those seeking a fast and direct link between the airport and Nottingham, does not stop to collect passengers within the villages in Leake and Ruddington division.

So, our attention has now turned to addressing the residual gaps in the network to the east of the East Midlands airport site and to improve rural access in particular. We are engaging with all the local bus operators to look at innovative transport solutions, such as Demand Responsive Transport, as well as more traditional fixed bus routes.

I have asked officers from the County Council to work with EMEG, to look at funding opportunities to deliver better transport for local residents, which could also inform future bus provision across Nottinghamshire.

I share your view that people living within such close distance of the airport should have public transport available to access the opportunities it offers. Recent media reports suggest there are well over 10,000 new jobs being created, on top of the 60,000 already in existence in that vicinity, with more expected to follow.

As ever, when new bus services are provided, there is a "use it or lose it" factor which dictates whether those services go from strength to strength or disappear, but with the economy of the area booming it is difficult to believe that there would not now be good foundations for a commercially viable route.

I know from our recent conversations that you have a particular desire to see good transport links established for the East Midlands Airport Academy, and the Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre officially opened by the Duke of Cambridge in June this year. I am sure the work being undertaken will take these facilities into consideration.

I assure you that, working with all our partners, Nottinghamshire County Council officers will look at all the available options to improve bus services and links to other public transport services in your area, and across Nottinghamshire as a whole.

#### **Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Alan Rhodes**

Could the Leader please provide members with an update on the progress of the Fair Funding Review for Nottinghamshire, (presented to Full Council in November 2017) and could she include details of all correspondence on the matter?

#### **Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE**

In October 2015 the Government announced its intention to enable local government to retain all business rates raised locally. The Government also committed to a full review of the needs and redistribution mechanism for local authorities.

This became known as the Fair Funding Review, and as part of our response, a unanimous decision was made at Full Council last November to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, at that time The Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid,

explaining how Nottinghamshire along with other areas of the East Midlands has suffered from the lowest level of public expenditure in the country for many years.

This letter was sent “*on behalf of and including all Nottinghamshire County Councillors*” on 11<sup>th</sup> December, and a reply was received from the Secretary of State at the end of January 2018 which was circulated to Members.

At the Budget meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February, Councillor Richard Jackson quoted directly from the letter which said, and I quote:

‘You rightly highlight councils’ hard work to deliver efficiency savings, and I ... acknowledge the contribution which councils have made to balancing their books. Collectively, you have delivered a better deal for local taxpayers, while satisfaction with local public services has been broadly maintained.’

Sajid Javid added:-

‘You raise concerns regarding the distribution of funding to Nottinghamshire, particularly for social services. I can confirm that I remain committed to the Fair Funding Review as an important way to address concerns about the fairness of current funding distribution.’

Since then, the Local Government Association has been collaborating with local authorities and central government to take these proposals forward. Both the Chief Executive Anthony May and our Service Director for Finance Nigel Stevenson have been involved in these discussions and working groups. They have continued to engage with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the LGA to progress issues around Fair Funding and Business Rates Retention. Members can find agendas and technical papers on the progress of Fair Funding and Business Rates Retention on the LGA website.

At Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> March this year, Members agreed the Council’s response to the Government’s data gathering consultation exercise, named ‘Fair Funding – A Review of Relative Needs and Resources’.

In July, the County Council volunteered to take part in research commissioned by the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government and the Department for Education into the development of a new children’s services funding formula, and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September we received a request for data in this regard, for which we will meet the response deadline of 24<sup>th</sup> September.

Meanwhile, various professional bodies, such as the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the Society of County Treasurers, and the County Council’s Network, have been collating data from Councils to help shape the overall debate on local government funding and the Fair Funding Review.

So, Chairman, a lot of work is still going on in the background, but beyond the Secretary of State’s earlier letter we still await further “official” developments worthy of report to the Policy Committee or Full Council.

### **Question to the Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee from Councillor Mike Pringle**

I should like to congratulate Councillor Cottee on the first draft of the Visitor Economy Strategy which came to Policy Committee last week. Given the need for increased connectivity throughout our region, would Councillor Cottee be prepared, with the support of myself and Councillor John Peck, to write to the Secretary of State for Transport seeking funding to reinstate the Robin Hood line, which would undoubtedly strengthen our tourism offer in Nottinghamshire?

### **Response from Councillor John Cottee, Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee**

As you will be aware, the County Council has already invested over £200,000 on feasibility work to help progress the opening of the line between Shirebrook and Ollerton, and it is worth making the point that no other organisation has funded any of these works. It is estimated that it will cost a further £1 million to undertake the remaining feasibility works which the Council is unable to fund and we have therefore discussed alternative funding arrangements with Government representatives.

As part of the Department for Transport's published responses to the East Midlands Rail franchise consultation it stated that the next operator of the East Midlands franchise will be required to submit a business case to the Secretary of State to demonstrate the case for opening the line to Ollerton for passenger services. Therefore, any potential Department for Transport funding for this scheme is dependent on the outcome of that business case, which will not be undertaken until after the new franchise starts in August 2019.

However, I am happy to write to the Secretary of State to ask that the Department for Transport press for the Robin Hood line extension business case to be developed by the franchisee, and submitted to the Department for Transport for consideration, as soon as possible following the award of the franchise.

The Council also considers that it is up to Central Government, if it supports the scheme following the submission of the business case, to develop a funding package to deliver the improvements that does not require the County Council to pay for the majority of the associated capital works and any ongoing revenue running costs.

### **Question to the Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee from Councillor Muriel Weisz**

Given the absence of the promised Green Paper from the government to address the crisis in social care, the LGA paper 'The lives we want to lead' is currently out for consultation. Can the Chairman inform members what the Council's likely response will be to the following key point made in the consultation document - 'Significant reductions to council's funding from national government is now jeopardising the impact local government can have in communities across the country'?

## **Response from the Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee, Councillor Stuart Wallace**

I thank Councillor Weisz for her question, about a matter which is of most crucial importance for the future of many people, not only in this county but right across the country. My answer will only refer to what we have control over here in Nottinghamshire. I am not making any predictions on what should happen elsewhere in the country.

In the March 2017 Budget, the Conservative Government said that it would publish a Green Paper on Social Care to allow for a public consultation. Unfortunately, the publication of the Green Paper has been delayed until this Autumn 2018, with the announcement that a 10-year plan for the NHS would need to be developed alongside. The Government has said that the proposals in the Green Paper will ensure a care and support scheme that is sustainable in the long term, which is crucial. As the then Minister responsible for the Green Paper, Damian Green, told the House of Commons in November 2017, “reform of this vital sector of care and support has been a controversial issue for many years, but the realities of an ageing society mean that we must reach a sustainable settlement for the long-term”. And the key word of course is that it has to be a *sustainable* settlement, it cannot be a fix.

In a speech in March 2018, the then Health and Social Care Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, outlined seven key principles to guide thinking on the Green Paper. I will give you the seven, and I will state where Nottinghamshire is already working towards these.

First of all was *‘quality and safety embedded in the service provision’*.

The second is *‘whole-person, integrated care with NHS and social care systems operating as one’*. You will have seen from the comments made by the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) that we are already integrating many of our services and driving forwards towards that objective. It is also important to tell this Council, indeed many of you already know, that we have been accepted, or rather the Greater Nottinghamshire STP has been accepted by the Government as an ICS (Integrated Care System).

Going forward, the highest possible control of support should be given to care users and service users. We already do this through our system of giving people the funding to organise their own care. We also do this by enabling them to do self-assessment, so they can be in control of their future and in control of the service we provide.

*‘A valued workforce’* is crucial and important, and although we suffer - or rather the units and businesses we engage suffer in that they sometimes have difficulty in retaining staff - overall we are still able to manage and provide support all the way, from all of the tiers of care.

*‘Better practical support for families and carers’* – the next Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee in October will have a paper on the new care offer that we are providing to carers which is, I believe, well supported by them.

*'A sustainable funding model for social care supported by a diverse, vibrant and stable market'*. I believe that Nottinghamshire manages to achieve this by being honest in the way it pays monies out to different companies, and the way that we accommodate new developments, such as incorporating increases to the living wage.

*'Greater security for all'* – for those born and developing a care need early in life and entering old age. They need to know what their future is. We already do that, we build, we show that there is a practical system by which people are cared for.

At the same time that the then Secretary of State for Health and Social Care made this announcement, he also made a further announcement, which said that Nottinghamshire is one of three [pilot] sites selected to take a proactive and joined up approach to:-

- assessment of people with health and social care needs
- integrated personal budgets for health and care funding.

This would be a pilot, where people will receive better and more joined up care achieved by multidisciplinary teams delivering services as simply and effectively as possible. That programme is being constructed now and will be developed for the later part of this year and early next year.

There are four main issues which I think need to be addressed in the Green Paper:-

- The first is to ensure there is sufficient funding for the existing means-tested system that we operate in this country. The sector's funding gap is calculated by the LGA to be £2.3bn annually. This evidence of a system under pressure has been provided by a range of think tanks and reports including the National Audit Office and the Office of Budget Responsibility. We all know that as austerity has worked through, as we have tried to restore Britain's economic position, pressures have come across all departments. Health and social services have to take part;
- The second is how much should the state (and therefore the population) pay for social care collectively and how much should continue to fall on individuals and individual families? Anyone with over £23,250 in savings or capital assets will pay the full cost of their care. For some people this is difficult, although we do in this county run a system of deferring payments which does help. People also contribute from their income where this is above a minimum level, which according to Government advice depends on age, and is around £189 a week for older persons.
- The third is what further reform would improve the system and help deliver social care? I think the Government have said that this should include integration with health and other care services, carers, workforce, technological developments and the interface with housing. I am able to say that today, an announcement was made by the NHS that Nottinghamshire has been selected to receive a tranche of monies towards technologies allowing hospitals, such as the one in Bassetlaw which will get the largest sum of money, to be able to communicate through their computerised systems with social care. At the moment, neither can speak to each other.

- The fourth is how [do] we pay for the social care now and in the future? The state pays just above 1% of GDP towards social care. If you look around the world it is a small proportion of national wealth. Most economists predict that this will need to rise as we become richer and more of us live longer. The average life expectancy of someone with Down's syndrome has gone from 23 in 1980 to 60 today. There is a 4.5% increase in the number over 85's each year that live in Nottinghamshire and while this is good and people are enjoying their longer life, they do come to us with longer term conditions.

I do recognise that funding pressures are considerable and are set to grow. I think we have done much in this county through our adult social care strategy to build a modern, efficient and effective social care service based on promoting independence, choice and control. I actually think and am quite proud to say that Nottinghamshire is held in unrivalled esteem by the rest of the care service [sector]. We remain in budget, whilst services are excellent. People come to view us to see how we operate and I think that in itself is a complement not just to this Administration, but also the Administration before us, and our Administration before that.

**Question to the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board from Councillor Liz Plant**

Research states that 1 in 10 children and adolescents need support and treatment for mental health issues, and that over half the mental health problems in adult life start by age 14, and 75% by age 18. Given such stark facts, can the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board be confident that the ambitions outlined in the government's *Future in Mind* document to transform the delivery of the local service offer for children and adolescents with mental health issues is being delivered, and that all financial resources are being spent appropriately to deliver an improved, joined up offer for children and adolescents throughout Nottinghamshire?

**Response from the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Councillor Dr John Doddy**

This is a crucial question because of the very statistics that [Councillor Plant] points out. This question asks about the mental health of the children of Nottinghamshire and you would think this had been taken directly from a document we know very well – our 'Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2022'.

The number one priority is to give every child the best chance in life. What worse chance can a child have than suffering a mental illness and not getting timely care for that? This thought comes straight from [Sir Michael] Marmot in 2010, the Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health [at University College, London] saying that if we give children a good start in life then we can actually create social mobility and address the social inequality that exists. This is about how we deliver mental health services to allow that child to get a good start in life, allow them to go to school, allow them to get a good education, allow them to get a good job, allow them to get a good house and therefore allow them to move up through the ranks of social mobility.

Demographically (from the recent publication, some 170 odd pages of the demography of Nottinghamshire), one in ten, what does it mean? It means that we have 785,800

people within Nottinghamshire, of whom 23% are children. That means over 180,000 children, of whom one in ten - over 18,000 potential children – could suffer a mental illness. That's quite a staggering statistic.

So, to deliver [mental health services] well, under the guidance of *Future in Mind*, is very important. We know the problem exists, we know it is important in terms of social mobility and the health and wellbeing of children and giving them a good start, and we now know demographically the size of the potential problem. You [Councillor Plant] said 75% of the mental illnesses [in adult life] start in childhood [up to 18 years], but this doesn't necessarily mean that it progresses into adulthood because the normal time limit for a lot of illnesses is eight to twelve months, and a lot of mental illnesses which come on in later life. We have talked in the past about dementia and age-related illnesses such as Parkinson's Disease, strokes, etc., so there are a whole host of mental illness that are independent of childhood, but there are indeed quite a lot that exist in childhood and some that then continue into adulthood. It is not just the fact that they continue into adulthood, it's the fact that they can destroy childhood and [a child's] education, meaning that by the time they get to adulthood they have actually lost many potential opportunities in their life. Mental illness in childhood can be nothing less than devastating to the progress of that child going forward.

So, when we look at that and we say to ourselves, well, how are we going to address such a complex problem as this, you have to first understand the situation and the life we are in. The world we are in is generating children with mental illness. Part of '*Future in Mind*' was put forward by Norman Lamb [Minister for State Care and Support until May 2015] who formed a [Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing] Taskforce and said that we must develop resilience in our children, the ability to get through challenges in their lives in order to allow them to go forward and have a happy and healthy and prosperous life. We need children who are in safe homes. We need children who can play both indoors and outdoors safely. We need children who can go to school and feel safe at school and feel that they are not intimidated at school and that it is a place of learning and a place of good experiences, not a place of fear. We need children who can feel that they are in control of their own destiny, not children that feel that they are victims. We need children who can take blows, who can get knocked back, who even if they experience episodes of mental illness still have that resilience to allow them to move forward.

So today's world creates the challenges. Today's world creates the environment where children do get exposed. And if they don't have that resilience - which comes from within communities, which comes from each and every one of us working in our communities, from the spirit of communities getting people involved in community activities to make them feel valued - if that doesn't happen, and you don't have that resilience and you suffer from mental illness, then children, the same as adults, can suffer mental health problems (not just depressed).

Children, perhaps more uniquely, self-harm. One in four teenage girls is thought to self-harm. A staggering figure. When I started in medicine I would never see that, but now, looking after a Secure Unit, I go in and see kids every week and their whole arms look like sleeve tattoos, you cannot see a single area of skin that has not been cut open. I see children inserting pens under the skin and then going to hospital and coming back and doing it again. Self-harm has become an epidemic as an expression



of mental illness in young people today. Eating disorders - anorexia and bulimia - still kill people. Anorexia is the single biggest killer in the country in terms of eating disorders. I have a lot of experience of seeing kids with anorexia.

In terms of mental illness, children, particularly those with any sort of learning disabilities, particularly those who have stresses in their lives, develop anxiety. They have a fear of going outside. It starts simply and then grows and becomes a specific anxiety. "I don't like school" - school phobia, school avoidance; then it's "I don't like going outside", then it's "I don't like talking to people" and at that very point, that's where the intervention is required, because failure to intervene has a devastating consequence.

This brings me to the comments of Norman Lamb in 2014, published in 2015, saying we need a cohesive approach to developing a solution to the problem. However, if you don't know the size of the problem, if you don't know the circumstances in which it thrives, if you don't know the levels of resilience, it's hard to give that joined-up service. We are seeking to deliver that joined-up service through the *Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Joint Local Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Emotional and Mental Health 2016 - 2020*. The plan, developed through a partnership between Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City, gives details on how we are working together to develop, deliver and monitor [the effectiveness of] mental health services for children and young people locally.

We have the *Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Executive Group* made up of NHS, Public Health, other local authority colleagues and Health Watch, a group of people coming together to monitor and ensure that we are implementing the very thing asked for by the '*Future in Mind*' policy document. So you now have a local transformation plan and a monitoring executive group to oversee implementation of the plan and the individual projects designed to ensure that the aims delivered.

One of the things within the plan - there are two elements to it, a 74 page complete document and an executive summary – is the aim of developing on-line support. So, over the last two years, we have put £300,000 into 'Kooth', a mental health online counselling service for adolescents with mental health problems. There is a service provided by the Children's Society, called 'Safe Time' for children who have had abuse, for children who suffered from sexual abuse. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) have beefed up their services to reduce waiting times, seeing every child and *examining* and beginning *treatment* within as short a time as possible (average wait is 11 weeks, but the 18 week target does not apply to CAMHS). In addition to that, we have a children's rapid response service, which sees children in crisis as soon as possible in their own homes and also in hospital, ensuring they don't get stuck in hospital longer than needed.

So we not only have a clear transformation plan, we not only have a high level group that monitors progress, we not only have specific eating disorder clinics that have been set up, but also specific online services and specific intervention services. This leaves me in no doubt whatsoever to say, in answer to your question, that we are excelling in the delivery of '*Future in Mind*', we are excelling in the delivery of our plan, we are excelling in the delivery of services, and I am confident that fiscally and in terms of

face-to-face services we are doing remarkably well. I would like to thank the Council and particularly the Commissioning Hub in Public Health for their delivery of the *Future in Mind* programme and such a fantastic service.

### **Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Jason Zadrozny**

This Council is commencing building a case that could see the biggest change in Local Government in Nottinghamshire since 1974. It has already committed £270,000 of public money to the project. Can Councillor Cutts expand on the total amount it will cost when we include Nottinghamshire Council Officers' time?

Who does she think is best placed to make the decision to scrap our local councils in this County - the people or politicians?

### **Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE**

This proposal isn't "the biggest change in Local Government in Nottinghamshire since 1974", but another change.

Nottinghamshire County Council agreed with our colleagues in the City that in 1998 it would be better for the representation of County and City residents if the City became a unitary authority based on the City Council boundaries, and not a district council in a two-tier system – which was the case after the 1974 review.

I have had no correspondence from any Leader of the City Council, nor any Chief Executive, urging me to revert to the previous system and therefore the only conclusion I can come to is that they are satisfied with unitary status and would not wish to go back to those arrangements under the 1974 Act.

I am not surprised that Councillor Zadrozny is opposed to the current proposals, since he has only recently become the Leader of Ashfield District Council. I therefore understand the position he takes because – under a unitary authority for the whole of Nottinghamshire – his post would become redundant.

The fact is that this Council voted in favour of exploring the possibility of a unitary authority for Nottinghamshire at the last Full Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

Therefore, it is my duty to carry out these instructions, which is why a cross-party working group has been set up which conducted its first meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Councillor Zadrozny's Group placed him on this committee, together with Members from other parties, where all forms of Local Government for Nottinghamshire were discussed, using the building blocks of whole district and borough councils as we are obliged to do by Government. We looked at the different configurations that might create a unitary authority.

Government guidelines state that the population of any new unitary authority should be substantially more than 300,000, though there is no upper figure, as has been suggested by some district councils. Officers of this Council have researched this and can find no Government guidance on exact upper limits of population.

Councillor Zadrozny asks how much the Local Government Reorganisation preparation work will cost in terms of officers' time. The simple answer is that we cannot know until it has concluded, but we estimate around £100,000, contained within a small team in the Council. This of course is a notional calculation based on officers' salaries, and not "extra" money being spent.

Nottinghamshire County Council's overheads are just 0.18%, some of the lowest for any County Council. District Councils in Nottinghamshire, on average, spend 12.74% of their budget on overheads – except for Ashfield District Council, where overheads amount to 21% of their total budget.

Most of the £270,000 we are proposing to spend is to engage an independent, well-regarded organisation to carry out on this Council's behalf a proper consultation with members of the public – including face-to-face interviews, group interviews, online surveys, and hard copies placed in County Council Libraries, of which there are 60 in this county, including nine in the district of Ashfield.

These amounts are of course one-off costs which would be offset almost five times over by the savings that could be made by no longer holding seven separate district council elections. The average cost of district council elections across the country is £259,000 for each district, so multiplied by the seven districts in Nottinghamshire this adds up to £1.81 million pounds for just one electoral cycle. This is money that could be better spent on services rather than running district elections, for which the district council chief executives receive an honorary sum.

Only after proper consultation has been carried out by an independent organisation on local government reorganisation, and when this Council has had a further report - I will say that again, when this Council has had a further report - will any decisions be made over the next steps.

In the meantime, this administration will work tirelessly to produce a balanced budget for our debate in February. I would welcome any suggestions from the Ashfield Independents or any other Group as to how this Council can save £54 million as well as continue to provide services, for which there is a rising demand. We have an obligation to the people of Nottinghamshire who elected us to make difficult decisions on their behalf, but have regard to their needs and not our own ambition or our current positions. We are here to serve the public, not ourselves.