



Nottinghamshire County Council

Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 12 July 2018 (10.30 am – 5.30 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Mrs Sue Saddington (Chairman)
Kevin Rostance (Vice-Chairman)

Reg Adair
Pauline Allan
Chris Barnfather
Joyce Bosnjak
Ben Bradley
Nicki Brooks
Andrew Brown
Richard Butler
Steve Carr
John Clarke
Neil Clarke MBE
John Cottee
Jim Creamer
Mrs Kay Cutts MBE
Samantha Deakin
Maureen Dobson
Dr John Doddy
Boyd Elliott
Sybil Fielding
Kate Foale
Stephen Garner
Glynn Gilfoyle
Keith Girling
Kevin Greaves
John Handley
Tony Harper
Errol Henry JP
Paul Henshaw
Tom Hollis
Vaughan Hopewell
Richard Jackson
Roger Jackson

Eric Kerry
John Knight
Bruce Laughton
John Longdon
Rachel Madden
David Martin
Diana Meale
John Ogle
Philip Owen
Michael Payne
John Peck JP
Sheila Place
Liz Plant
Mike Pringle
Francis Purdue-Horan
Mike Quigley MBE
Alan Rhodes
Phil Rostance
Andy Sissons
Helen-Ann Smith
Tracey Taylor
Parry Tsimbiridis
Steve Vickers
Keith Walker
Stuart Wallace
Muriel Weisz
Andy Wetton
Gordon Wheeler
Jonathan Wheeler
Yvonne Woodhead
Martin Wright
Jason Zadrozny

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Anthony May	(Chief Executive)
David Pearson CBE	(Adult Social Care and Health) (part)
Jonathan Gribbin	(Adult Social Care and Health)
Paul McKay	(Adult Social Care and Health)
Sara Allmond	(Chief Executives)
Carl Bilbey	(Chief Executives)
Heather Dickinson	(Chief Executives) (part)
Angie Dilley	(Chief Executives)
David Hennigan	(Chief Executives)
Marjorie Toward	(Chief Executives) (part)
Rob Shirley	(Chief Executives)
Nigel Stevenson	(Chief Executives) (part)
Colin Pettigrew	(Children, Families and Cultural Service)
Adrian Smith	(Place)

OPENING PRAYER

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

MINUTE SILENCE

A minute silence was held in memory of former County Councillor Terence Miller

AGENDA ORDER

The Chairman agreed to move item 7 – Senior Staffing Appointments to the Chief Executive's Department to directly after item 3 – declarations of interest.

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED: 2018/026

That the minutes of the last meeting of the County Council held on 10 May 2018 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The following apologies were submitted by members who arrived during the meeting:-

- Councillor Pauline Allan – attending a medical appointment
- Councillor Sheila Place – on other County Council business
- Councillor Tom Hollis – other reason

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Anthony May declared a pecuniary interest in Item 7 as his partner had a financial interest in the report.

7. SENIOR STAFFING APPOINTMENTS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT

Having declared pecuniary interests Anthony May left the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2018/027 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Reg Adair.

RESOLVED: 2018/027

- 1) That the newly created post of Service Director Customers, Governance and Employees be designated Monitoring Officer and that the Constitution be amended accordingly.
- 2) That the appointment of Marjorie Toward to the post of Service Director Customers, Governance and Employees and Monitoring Officer be formally approved
- 3) That the appointment of Nigel Stevenson to the post of Service Director Finance, Infrastructure and Improvement and Section 151 Officer be formally approved

Anthony May returned to the meeting. Marjorie Toward and Nigel Stevenson arrived at the meeting.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

(a) FORMER COUNTY COUNCILLOR TERENCE MILLER

Councillors Steve Carr, Mrs Kay Cutts MBE, and Alan Rhodes spoke in memory of former County Councillor Terence Miller.

(b) PRESENTATION AND AWARDS

Places that work for people award

Councillor Mrs Cutts MBE introduced the award won for the CAREER LOCAL two project which aimed to get young people inspired by the world of work, get good qualifications, have more opportunities to be ready to start their working life and impress local employers. The Chairman received the award from Councillor Mrs Cutts MBE and presented it to Lianna Law – Grant Development and Monitoring Officer and Abii Banjoko – Business Support Officer.

Ash Lea School Presentation

Councillor Philip Owen introduced the presentation of a framed certificate from the pupils at Ash Lea School, which was to be presented to the Chairman in thanks for the improvement works undertaken at the school. The Chairman

was presented with the framed picture by Councillor Philip Owen on behalf of the pupils.

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

The Chairman updated the Chamber on the business she had carried out on behalf of the Council since the last meeting.

5. CONSTITUENCY ISSUES

The following Members spoke for up to three minutes on issues which specifically related to their division and were relevant to the services provided by the County Council.

Councillor Andy Wetton – regarding the Meden Pool Sports Centre, Worksop

Councillor Paul Henshaw – regarding the Ladybrook Enterprise at the Ladybrook Community Centre

Councillor Rachel Madden – regarding the future on the A611

Councillor David Martin – regarding leisure in the Selston Parish, particularly Selson Golf Course.

6a. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

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

- (1) Councillor Bruce Laughton regarding complaints about a recycling centre on the outskirts of Farnsfield
- (2) Councillor Bruce Laughton regarding parking issues outside Kirklington School
- (3) Councillor Jonathan Wheeler regarding reconsideration of LIS funding for Leahurst Road Pre-School
- (4) Councillor Stuart Wallace regarding a residents parking scheme for Balderdon Gate, Newark
- (5) Councillor Steve Carr regarding pavement repairs on four roads in his division
- (6) Councillor Reg Adair requesting completion of work on a footpath at Clifton Road, Ruddington
- (7) Councillor Stephen Garner requesting highways issues in Garth Road, Mansfield
- (8) Councillor Alan Rhodes regarding a request from residents to reinstate bus services along Hemmingfield Road, Worksop

- (9) Councillor Muriel Weisz requesting a residents parking scheme at Hazel Grove, Digby Avenue and Kent Road, Mapperley
- (10) Councillor John Peck JP regarding opposition to 'fracking' in Sherwood Forest from residents of Edwinstowe

RESOLVED: 2018/028

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.

6b. RESPONSE TO PETITION PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

RESOLVED: 2018/029

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

8. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS 2017/18

Councillor Richard Jackson introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2018/030 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor John Ogle.

RESOLVED: 2018/030

- 1) To note the provisional 2017/18 year end revenue position.
- 2) To approve the level of County Fund Balances as set out in section 6.2 and Appendix A of the report.
- 3) To note the movements in reserves as detailed in section 6 and Appendix B of the report.
- 4) To note the Capital Programme and its financing.
- 5) To note the Council's 2017/18 Prudential Indicators out-turn as detailed in Appendix D of the report.
- 6) To note the Treasury Management outturn report in Appendix E of the report.

9. QUESTIONS

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

No questions were received

(b) QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Twelve questions had been received as follows:-

- 1) from Councillor Samantha Deakin concerning roads around Forest Glade School (Councillor John Cottee replied)
- 2) from Councillor Muriel Weisz regarding the shortfall in Adult Social Care funding (Councillor Stuart Wallace replied)
- 3) from Councillor Jason Zadrozny about electrification of the Midland Mainline (Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE replied)
- 4) from Councillor Rachel Madden concerning funding for Rights of Way (Councillor John Cottee replied)
- 5) from Councillor Errol Henry JP regarding support and services signposting for those effected by the Windrush immigration issue (Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE replied)
- 6) Councillor Michael Payne about local data on the impact of the roll out of Universal Credit on other local services (Councillor Stuart Wallace replied on behalf of Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE)
- 7) from Councillor Jason Zadrozny concerning partnership working to tackle drug problems in the County (Councillor Stuart Wallace replied)

Councillor Pauline Allan arrived during question 7.

- 8) from Councillor John Peck JP regarding the tender for the East Midlands rail franchise in relation to the extension to Ollerton (Councillor John Cottee replied)
- 9) from Councillor David Martin about digital bus arrival boards in Selston and extending the Robin Hood card (Councillor John Cottee replied)
- 10) from Councillor Kate Foale regarding ensuring the removal of hidden restrictions to women entering and progressing within the Council workforce (Councillor Neil Clarke MBE replied)

The full responses to the ten questions above are set out in set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

The time limit of 60 minutes allowed for questions was reached before the following questions were asked. A written response to the questions would be provided to the Councillors who asked the questions within 15 working days of the meeting and be included in the papers for the next Full Council meeting.

- 11) from Councillor Mike Pringle regarding vulnerabilities of former mining communities by seismic activity (Councillor John Cottee to reply)

- 12) from Councillor Liz Plant about improving education outcomes for Nottinghamshire's most disadvantaged pupils (Councillor Philip Owen to reply)

Council adjourned from 12.30pm to 1.20pm for lunch.

Councillor Sheila Place arrived after lunch

10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

MOTION ONE

Councillor David Martin, as mover, withdrew the motion due to the seconder not being in the room.

MOTION TWO

A Motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Jason Zadrozny and seconded by Councillor Helen-Ann Smith:-

"The Council notes that:

1. Each year a number of young people (aged 16 or over) leave the care of Nottinghamshire County Council and began the difficult transition out of care and into adult life; and that when a young person leaves care and moves into independent accommodation, they begin to manage their own budget fully for the first time. In many cases, this can lead to a spiral of debt for some of our most vulnerable young people.
2. A recent report by the Children's Society found that when care leavers move into independent accommodation they begin to manage their own budget fully for the first time. The report showed that care leavers can find this extremely difficult and, with no family to support them and insufficient financial education, are falling into debt and financial difficulty.
3. Research from the Centre of Social Justice found that over half (57%) of young people leaving care have difficulty managing their money and avoiding debt when leaving care.
4. Nottinghamshire County Council has a duty of care to care leavers.
5. This Council notes that a number of District Councils in Nottinghamshire have already agreed or are in the process of agreeing to support young care leavers.

The Council believes that:

1. To ensure that the transition from care to adult life is as smooth as possible, and to mitigate the chances of care leavers falling into debt as they begin to manage their own finances, they should be exempt from paying Council Tax until they are aged 25.
2. Care leavers are a particularly vulnerable group for Council Tax debt.

This Council therefore resolves:

- (i) To request officers to explore exempting all care leavers in work from Council tax in Nottinghamshire up to the age of 25 and a report to come to the Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee of Nottinghamshire County Council at the earliest opportunity to implement this change that will make a significant difference to so many young people's lives.
- (ii) That the Leaders of the Ashfield Independents, the Conservatives, Labour and the Mansfield Independent Forum write to the Minister of State for Children and Families, Nadhim Zahawi MP, urging him to introduce a national exemption for care leavers from Council Tax up to the age of 25."

An amendment to the Motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Philip Owen and seconded by Councillor Tracey Taylor:-

"The Council notes that:

1. Each year a number of young people (aged 16 or over) leave the care of Nottinghamshire County Council and begin the difficult transition out of care and into adult life, and that when a young person leaves care and moves into independent accommodation, they begin to manage their own budget fully for the first time. In many cases, this can lead to a spiral of debt for some of our most vulnerable young people.
2. A recent report by the Children's Society found that when care leavers move into independent accommodation they begin to manage their own budget fully for the first time. The report showed that care leavers can find this extremely difficult and, with no family to support them and insufficient financial education, are **at risk of** falling into debt and financial difficulty.
3. Research from the Centre **for** of Social Justice found that over half (57%) of young people leaving care have difficulty managing their money and avoiding debt when leaving care.
4. Nottinghamshire County Council has a duty of care to care leavers.
5. This Council notes that a number of District Councils in Nottinghamshire have already agreed or are in the process of agreeing to support young care leavers.

Therefore, The **this** Council believes that:-

- a) **reiterates its commitment to 'explore opportunities to exempt care leavers from council tax and maximise their income', as agreed in its Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Nottinghamshire 2018-21, approved by Children & Young People's Committee on 15th January 2018, 4.** To ensure that the transition from care to adult life is as smooth as possible, and to mitigate the chances of care leavers falling into debt. as they begin to manage their own finances, they should be exempt from paying council tax until they are aged 25.

~~2. Care leavers are a particularly vulnerable group for Council Tax debt.~~

~~**b) recognises that the power to introduce council tax exemptions lies with borough and district councils as collection authorities, working within the national legal framework, and supports the work Nottinghamshire County Council officers are undertaking with borough and district colleagues to deliver the above policy, which has already seen many Nottinghamshire councils introduce greater council tax reductions or exemptions for care leavers, with other councils expected to follow.**~~

~~This Council therefore~~

~~**c) resolves (i) To request officers to explore exempting all care leavers in work from Council tax in Nottinghamshire up to the age of 25 and a that regular reports should** to come to the **Children & Young People's Committee** Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee of Nottinghamshire County Council **updating Members on the progress made in delivering this commitment** at the earliest opportunity to implement this change that **which** will make a significant difference to so many young people's lives.~~

~~(ii) — That the Leaders of the Ashfield Independents, the Conservatives, Labour and the Mansfield Independent Forum write to the Minister of State for Children and Families, Nadhim Zahawi MP, urging him to introduce a national exemption for care leavers from Council Tax up to the age of 25."~~

Council adjourned from 1.42pm to 2.00pm.

Councillor Jason Zadrozny accepted the amendment, with the agreement of Councillor Owen to reinstate paragraph 4 from the original Motion.*

The Motion as amended was put to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2018/031

The Council notes that:

1. Each year a number of young people (aged 16 or over) leave the care of Nottinghamshire County Council and begin the difficult transition into adult life, and when a young person leaves care and moves into independent accommodation, they begin to manage their own budget fully for the first time.
2. A recent report by the Children's Society found that care leavers can find this extremely difficult and, with no family to support them and insufficient financial education, are at risk of falling into debt and financial difficulty.
3. Research from the Centre for Social Justice found that 57% of young people leaving care have difficulty managing their money and avoiding debt.
4. Nottinghamshire County Council has a duty of care to care leavers.

Therefore, this Council:-

- a) reiterates its commitment to '*explore opportunities to exempt care leavers from council tax and maximise their income*', as agreed in its *Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Nottinghamshire 2018-21*, approved by Children & Young People's Committee on 15th January 2018, to ensure that the transition from care to adult life is as smooth as possible, and to mitigate the chances of care leavers falling into debt.
- b) recognises that the power to introduce council tax exemptions lies with borough and district councils as collection authorities, working within the national legal framework, and supports the work Nottinghamshire County Council officers are undertaking with borough and district colleagues to deliver the above policy, which has already seen many Nottinghamshire councils introduce greater council tax reductions or exemptions for care leavers, with other councils expected to follow.
- c) resolves that regular reports should come to the Children & Young People's Committee of Nottinghamshire County Council updating Members on the progress made in delivering this commitment which will make a significant difference to so many young people's lives.

Councillor Hollis arrived during consideration of this item.

MOTION THREE

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE moved an altered Motion in terms of resolution 2018/032 below. The motion was seconded by Councillor Reg Adair

Council adjourned from 2.02pm to 2.18pm

Following a debate the altered 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:-

Reg Adair	Richard Jackson
Chris Barnfather	Roger Jackson
Ben Bradley	Eric Kerry
Andrew Brown	Bruce Laughton
Richard Butler	John Longdon
Neil Clarke MBE	John Ogle
John Cottee	Philip Owen
Mrs Kay Cutts MBE	Francis Purdue-Horan
Dr John Doddy	Mike Quigley MBE
Boyd Elliott	Kevin Rostance
Stephen Garner	Phil Rostance
Keith Girling	Mrs Sue Saddington
John Handley	Andy Sissons
Tony Harper	Tracey Taylor
Vaughan Hopewell	Steve Vickers

Keith Walker
Stuart Wallace
Gordon Wheeler

Jonathan Wheeler
Martin Wright

The following 30 Members voted '**Against**' the motion:-

Pauline Allan	John Knight
Joyce Bosnjak	Rachel Madden
Nicki Brooks	David Martin
Steve Carr	Diana Meale
John Clarke	Michael Payne
Jim Creamer	John Peck JP
Samantha Deakin	Sheila Place
Maureen Dobson	Liz Plant
Sybil Fielding	Mike Pringle
Kate Foale	Alan Rhodes
Glynn Gilfoyle	Helen-Ann Smith
Kevin Greaves	Parry Tsimbirdis
Errol Henry JP	Andy Wetton
Paul Henshaw	Yvonne Woodhead
Tom Hollis	Jason Zadzonzy

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

RESOLVED: 2018/032

This Council:-

- a) agrees that the current 'two-tier' structure of the County Council and seven district councils is an inefficient and ineffective way to deliver services in Nottinghamshire, especially at a time when local government finances are under severe pressure;
- b) agrees that forming a unitary council for Nottinghamshire would pool all existing resources and release approximately £20-£30 million pounds of public money annually, currently tied up in bureaucracy;
- c) agrees that a unitary authority would achieve economies of scale and deliver a more responsive service to residents by:-
 - i) creating a single headquarters and management team for the new council to replace the eight headquarters, chief executives and senior management teams currently serving the County Council and the seven district councils;
 - ii) bringing all council services in Nottinghamshire together under one roof, removing duplication and requiring fewer buildings, which would also deliver capital receipts for reinvestment by disposing of surplus property;
 - iii) retaining two councillors per electoral division to serve the principles of localism, but removing the confusion caused by 'two-tier' local government where residents are frequently unclear whether they should raise issues with district councillors or county councillors;

- iv) establishing single systems for council tax collection, waste management, housing and planning;
 - v) providing a proactive solution to the current budget challenges facing the County and district councils and thereby protecting critical services, such as adult social care, potentially avoiding steep and prolonged increases in council tax and other charges;
- d) instructs officers to continue their work preparing a formal case for a unitary authority and bring forward a report to a future meeting of Full Council setting out the Business Case;
- e) on approval of this Business Case agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government formally stating Nottinghamshire County Council's support for a unitary council for Nottinghamshire.

MOTION FOUR

As per Paragraph 7 of the Council's Procedure Rules the 5.30pm end time for the meeting was reached at this point, therefore all remaining business on the agenda would be carried over to the following meeting.

*At the end of the meeting the Chief executive clarified, for the avoidance of doubt, that the resolution from motion 2 included the reinstated paragraph 4 from the original motion.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.33 pm.

CHAIRMAN