

CABINET

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 4TH JULY 2007
(11.00 AM – 11.55 AM)



Nottinghamshire
County Council

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

	Chris Baron	(Finance and Property)
A	Joyce Bosnjak	(Children and Young People's Services)
	Steve Carroll	(Culture and Regeneration)
A	Glynn Gilfoyle	(Community Safety and Partnerships)
	David Kirkham	(Leader)
A	Alan Rhodes	(Adult Services and Health)
	Stella Smedley	(Environment)
	John Stocks	(People and Performance)
	Mick Storey	(Deputy Leader)

Also in attendance

Councillor Peter Barnes
Councillor Richard Butler
Councillor Jen Cole
Councillor John Cottee
Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts
Councillor Keith Girling
Councillor Albert Haynes
Councillor John M. Hemsall
Councillor Stan Heptinstall MBE
Councillor Richard Jackson
Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones
Councillor Bruce Laughton
Councillor Jim O'Riordan
Councillor Lynn Sykes
Councillor Yvonne Woodhead

1. NOTES

The notes of the last meeting held on 6th June 2007 were received as a true and correct record and signed by the Leader.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Joyce Bosnjak
Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle
Councillor Alan Rhodes

Councillor M. Brandon-Bravo)	
Councillor John Clarke)	other Members
Councillor Sheila Place)	
Councillor Mark Spencer)	
Councillor Martin Suthers)	

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor Richard Butler declared a personal interest in agenda item number 6 – Provision and Support for Student Transport in Post-16 Education – in view of his employment with the Learning and Skills Council.

Councillor Keith Girling declared a personal interest in agenda item number 5 – The Future of Newark High School – as he was a Governor at the school.

Councillor Richard Jackson declared a personal interest in agenda item number 10 – NET Phase 2: Governance Arrangements – in view of his employment in the area. (Note – Councillor Jackson did not make this declaration at this stage of Cabinet’s proceedings but later in the meeting as indicated in these notes).

SECTION A (Key decisions included in the Forward Plan)

4. CLARBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL – DELIVERY OF EARLY YEARS EDUCATION PLACES

RESOLVED: 2007/099

That the publication of a statutory notice, under the provisions of Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, for the proposal to lower the existing age limit of Clarbrough Primary from 5 – 11 to 3 – 11 years, thereby enabling the school to admit children to attend the early years education places in existing accommodation from January 2008, be approved.

5. THE FUTURE OF NEWARK HIGH SCHOOL

Councillor Jim O’Riordan, Deputy Cabinet Member, outlined the main features of the proposals arising from the recent consultation exercise undertaken on the future of the school.

Some non-voting Members felt that the issues set out in the report should be reconsidered as there appeared to be no clear pattern arising from the small number of consultation responses received, that it appeared that the Trustees had not been consulted in their capacity as owners of the land and buildings, that the possibility of the school becoming an Academy was not considered and also that the school had made huge improvements in recent years. In response, Councillor O’Riordan drew the attention of Cabinet colleagues and non-voting Members to the third recommendation contained in the report which indicated that further consultations would be undertaken.

RESOLVED: 2007/100

1. That the responses from the recent consultation exercises on the future of Newark High School, as set out in the report, be noted;

2. that it be noted that Cabinet is minded in principle to close Newark High School and expand the Grove School;
3. that Officers from the Children and Young People's Services Department continue to work with the staff and Governors from the Grove School and the Newark High School, along with other relevant partners, in order to develop the detail of the expansion of the Grove School and closure of Newark High School and that further consultations be approved with the staff, governors and parents/carers of Newark High School, the Grove School and other appropriate interested parties to consider this proposal and
4. that a further report be submitted to a future meeting on the outcome of the above consultations, with recommendations for action.

6. PROVISION OF SUPPORT FOR STUDENT TRANSPORT IN POST-16 EDUCATION

RESOLVED: 2007/101

1. That the proposed scheme, as set out in the appendix to the report, be approved for operation for the 2007/08 academic year and
2. that the Learning and Skills Council transport allocation be used to further the aims of widening participation and improving retention rates in Post-16 Education with the allocation being audited by the County Council.

7. HUCKNALL TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS SCHEME – CURRENT STATUS

Councillor Smedley advised Cabinet that the report before the meeting was a progress report and indicated the various issues and concerns which would be considered as the Scheme was delivered.

RESOLVED: 2007/102

1. That the progress of the Hucknall Town Centre Improvement Scheme, as detailed in the report, be noted;
2. that the alignment of the proposed new road, as set out in the report and in the plans attached to the report, be approved and
3. that Ashfield District Council be requested to formally support the Scheme and commit its proposed funding contribution.

8. CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

In introducing the main features of the report, the Leader advised that it was proposed that a seminar be arranged for later in the year to provide more information for Members on risk management issues. Members welcomed the proposed seminar and, in the light of recent events, requested that the process seriously consider security issues at County Council buildings, particularly County Hall, recognising that there was always a balance to be struck between providing

an open and accessible County headquarters with the need to take appropriate security measures.

RESOLVED: 2007/103

That the County Council's progress in respect of Corporate Risk Management, as detailed in the report, be noted.

9. CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT PRACTICE GUIDE COMPANION TO PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 25 (PPS25)– “DEVELOPMENT AND FLOOD RISK”

Councillor Smedley introduced the item and explained the reasons for the proposed comments to be made to the Department of Communities and Local Government as set out in the appendix to the report. Whilst acknowledging the seriousness of recent flooding in the County, she advised that comments which Members may have in this specific respect were more properly a matter for future debate. In this latter connection, Members raised issues concerning the need to constantly review measures to recognise the unpredictability of current weather patterns, the need to review planning permissions where the approval of applications for small scale infill seemed to exacerbate surface drainage problems and also the need to provide greater co-ordination of action between the various agencies involved in such an emergency.

RESOLVED: 2007/104

That the comments and conclusions set out in the report form the response of the Council to the Department of Communities and Local Government's consultation on the Draft Practice Guide Companion to PPS 25.

10. NET PHASE 2 – GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

At this stage in Cabinet's proceedings, Councillor Richard Jackson made the personal interest referred to above.

RESOLVED: 2007/105

1. That the Cabinet Members for Environment and Finance and Property be nominated to represent the County Council on the NET Project Board;
2. that the Strategic Director (Communities), in discussion with the Chief Executive, nominate three senior Officers to represent the County Council on the NET Project Board and
3. that the County Council Officer input to the NET Phase 2 project be kept under review.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

NOTE

The decisions contained in these minutes were made on Wednesday, 4th July 2007, published on Monday, 9th July 2007 and become effective on Tuesday 17th July 2007 unless a Call-In Request is made to call-in a decision in accordance with the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules paragraph 15.