



Nottinghamshire County Council

Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 17 December 2020 (10.30 am – 5.30 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Stuart Wallace (Chairman)
Andy Sissons (Vice-Chairman)

A	Reg Adair	Eric Kerry
	Pauline Allan	John Knight
	Chris Barnfather	Bruce Laughton
	Joyce Bosnjak	John Longdon
	Ben Bradley	Rachel Madden
	Nicki Brooks	David Martin
	Andrew Brown	Diana Meale
	Richard Butler	John Ogle
	Steve Carr	Philip Owen
	John Clarke	Michael Payne
	Neil Clarke MBE	John Peck JP
	John Cottee	Sheila Place
	Jim Creamer	Liz Plant
	Mrs Kay Cutts MBE	Mike Pringle
	Samantha Deakin	Francis Purdue-Horan
A	Maureen Dobson	Mike Quigley MBE
	Dr John Doddy	Alan Rhodes
	Boyd Elliott	Kevin Rostance
	Sybil Fielding	Phil Rostance
	Kate Foale	Mrs Sue Saddington
	Stephen Garner	Helen-Ann Smith
	Glynn Gilfoyle	Tracey Taylor
	Keith Girling	Parry Tsimbirdis
	Kevin Greaves	Steve Vickers
	John Handley	Keith Walker
	Tony Harper	Muriel Weisz
	Errol Henry JP	Andy Wetton
	Paul Henshaw	Gordon Wheeler
	Tom Hollis	Jonathan Wheeler
	Vaughan Hopewell	Yvonne Woodhead
	Richard Jackson	Martin Wright
	Roger Jackson	Jason Zadrozny

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Melanie Brooks	(Adult Social Care and Health)
Jonathan Gribbin	(Adult Social Care and Health)
Sue Batty	(Adult Social Care and Health)
Ainsley Macdonnell	(Adult Social Care and Health)
Anthony May	(Chief Executive)
Marjorie Toward	(Chief Executives)
Nigel Stevenson	(Chief Executives)
Sara Allmond	(Chief Executives)
Carl Bilbey	(Chief Executives)
Angie Dilley	(Chief Executives)
Anna O'Daly-Kardasinska	(Chief Executives)
David Hennigan	(Chief Executives)
James Silverward	(Chief Executives)
Colin Pettigrew	(Children and Families)
Adrian Smith	(Place)

Plus, additional officers were present to provide technical support to Members.

OPENING PRAYER

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

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED: 2020/022

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the County Council held on 15 October 2020 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

- Councillor Reg Adair (other reasons)
- Councillor Maureen Dobson (other reasons)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

PRESENTATION AND AWARDS

The Chairman announced the following awards:

Adult and Community Learner Provider of the Year

Inspire Nottinghamshire had been awarded the Adult and Community Learning Provider of the Year by the Times Educational Supplement Awards 2020.

Inspire delivered this work on behalf of the County Council. The service has been quick to respond to COVID-19 and was providing some innovative opportunities for learners, especially around skills for employment, work readiness, business start-up and wellbeing.

The Council congratulated the team for this amazing achievement.

ICE East Midlands Merit Awards 2020 – Highly commended in the small project category

Nottinghamshire County Council's Flood Risk Management Team secured the 'Highly Commended' award in the fiercely contended Small Project, under £2million, category at the recent Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE) East Midlands Merit Awards 2020 Ceremony.

These awards provided an opportunity to celebrate and showcase outstanding civil engineering achievement, innovation and ingenuity in the East Midlands.

The award was secured for the Southwell Property Flood Resilience Project, a project that to date had seen over 100 properties in Southwell protected from flooding using bespoke Property Flood Resilience. The project was delivered by the Councils supply partner Whitehouse Construction Ltd.

The project was applauded for its team approach and liaison with the community affected. The Council congratulated the team.

Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Street Lighting Innovation Award 2020

Via East Midlands Ltd, representing Nottinghamshire County Council, recently won the APSE Street Lighting Services Innovation Award 2020, for the LED Street Lighting renewal project, entitled 'Nottinghamshire's Lighting the Way to Save Energy'.

The project had been running since 2014 and was managed by Clare Murden of the Via Operations Electrical Team in partnership with Nick Stendall of the NCC Energy Team and Salix Finance.

Over 70,000 LED lanterns had been installed in Nottinghamshire with works on-going. Funding grants of just over £12m had been achieved from Salix with energy savings of over £9.7m to date. The project had been at no extra cost to the authority as this money would have been spent on the energy bills.

An energy reduction of 81.5 million kwh and 71,300 tonnes of carbon had been saved since the project began. There had also been a 47% reduction in lighting faults resulting in an improved service and value for money for the residents of Nottinghamshire. A further bid of £2.5m had recently been secured from Salix which will allow the project to continue until 2023.

The Council congratulated the team in winning this award and for their continued hard work.

Smarter Working Live Awards

The Council had won two awards at the Smarter Working Live Awards recognising the transformation of the way that the Council used data to manage services and to inform plans and strategies.

Organised in partnership with the Cabinet Office, the Smarter Working Live Awards celebrated outstanding public sector digital transformation and innovation.

The Council won the Smarter Working Award for best Data and Interoperability Project for its work on the intelligence led performance programme. The programme implemented the Council's Business Intelligence Strategy, and the judges were impressed by the introduction of agile working practice in the Performance, Intelligence and Policy Team – and the development of dashboards and data visualisations that are now used as part of the management of council services.

The Council's approach so impressed the judges that it was shortlisted for the overall Award for Special Recognition where the Council received the runner up award.

These awards were tremendous recognition of the investment that the Council had made into data intelligence and the work of our Performance, Intelligence and Policy Team. This work provided the Council with an invaluable foundation for the intelligence that was needed through the pandemic to stay abreast of the needs and pressures on Council services.

The Council congratulated everyone in the team and all the colleagues who supported these achievements.

Celebrating Success – Departmental Awards Scheme in Adult Social Care and Public Health

At the recent Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee the runners up and winners of the first departmental awards scheme in the Adult Social Care and Public Health Department were announced.

The inaugural awards focussed on the achievements of staff in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Congratulations to the winners, runners up and all those nominated.

CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

The Chairman updated members on the business he and the Vice-Chairman had carried out since the last meeting, including doing virtual visits with a large number of teams within the Council.

5. CONSTITUENCY ISSUES

The following Member 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 Sybil Fielding – regarding North Rhodesia Children’s Centre

6a. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

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

- (1) Councillor John Ogle requesting a change in the speed limit in Ragnall
- (2) Councillor John Cottee opposing the removal of yellow lines from Selby Lane
- (3) Councillor Roger Jackson regarding speeding traffic between Southwell and Upton
- (4) Councillor Roger Jackson requesting a Traffic Regulation Order and a reduce speed indicator on Station Road, Southwell
- (5) Councillor Michael Payne regarding road safety outside Richard Bonington Primary School
- (6) Councillor Liz Plant requesting a pedestrian crossing on Musters Road, West Bridgford
- (7) Councillor Phil Rostance requesting speed cameras or safety measures on Nabbs Lane, Hucknall

RESOLVED: 2020/023

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: 2020/024

That the contents and actions taken as set out in the report be noted with an amendment to Petition B – Safety Improvements on Killisick Road, Arnold, to correct a typographical error in the report. The petition had 523 signatures not 41 signatures as printed in the report.

7. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2020/21

Councillor Philip Owen introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2020/25 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor John Ogle.

Following a debate the motion was put to the meeting and following the vote the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2020/025

That the actions taken by the Section 151 Officer to date, as set out in the report, be approved.

8a. QUESTIONS TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AUTHORITY

None

8b. QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Thirteen questions had been received as follows: -

- 1) from Councillor Richard Jackson regarding HS2 (Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE replied)
- 2) from Councillor Alan Rhodes concerning allocation of Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) funding (Councillor John Handley replied on behalf of Councillor John Cottee)

- 3) from Councillor Liz Plant regarding technology to access online learning (Councillor Philip Owen replied)
- 4) from Councillor Mike Pringle about long term financial planning (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)
- 5) from Councillor Eric Kerry regarding the link road connecting Humber Road South to Thane Road (Councillor John Cottee replied)
- 6) from Councillor Kevin Greaves regarding spending on improving the County road network (Councillor John Cottee replied)
- 7) from Councillor Jason Zadrozny concerning enhanced testing support programme (Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE replied)
- 8) from Councillor John Peck about support to schools regarding track and trace (Councillor Philip Owen replied)
- 9) from Councillor David Martin concerning the Green Paper on Social Care (Councillor Tony Harper replied)

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

Councillor Parry Tsimbiridis joined the meeting at 11.25am during question one.

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.

- 10) from Councillor Rachel Madden concerning lobbying for extra funding regarding COVID-19 (Councillor Richard Jackson to reply)
- 11) from Councillor Sybil Fielding concerning process to consult members on changes to service delivery (Councillor Philip Owen to reply)
- 12) from Councillor Mike Pringle regarding provision of sanitary products (Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE to reply)
- 13) from Councillor Tom Hollis about every Councillor treating the County fairly and equitably (Councillor Bruce Laughton to reply)

9. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Motion One

A Motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Jason Zadrozny and seconded by Councillor Rachel Madden:

“This Council notes that spending on public transport per head in the East Midlands was only £268 last year. This is the fourth year in a row that the East Midlands has had the lowest public transport spend in the country. This compares unfavourably with the West Midlands who saw £467 spent per head at the same time. The UK average was £481 per year according to figures released by East Midlands Councils.

This Council further notes the decision to pause the Eastern Leg of HS2b. The news HS2 has been shelved from Birmingham to Leeds, via the East Midlands in favour of the Western Leg of Crewe to Manchester is a disaster for our region. This decision will cost this region hundreds of millions of pounds in regeneration opportunities. This is catastrophic for our region.

This Council believes that it is imperative that HS2b is delivered in full. The Eastern Leg of HS2 is critical to the long-term economic success of the East Midlands. This must include the East Midlands Hub Station at Toton.

This Council also notes the lack of progress with the campaign to fully electrify the Midlands’ Mainline.

We therefore call for an urgent meeting with the Secretary of State for Transport and all key stakeholders to make the case for urgent investment in public transport in Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands including the reinstatement of the electrification of the Midlands’ Mainline and the unpausing of the Eastern Leg of HS2b.”

Following the debate, the motion was put to the meeting. The requisite number of Members requested a recorded vote and it was ascertained that the following 31 members voted ‘**For**’ the motion:-

Pauline Allan
Joyce Bosnjak
Nicki Brooks
Steve Carr
John Clarke
Jim Creamer
Samantha Deakin
Sybil Fielding
Kate Foale
Glynn Gilfoyle
Kevin Greaves
Errol Henry JP
Paul Henshaw
Tom Hollis
Vaughan Hopewell
Rachel Madden

David Martin
Diana Meale
Michael Payne
John Peck JP
Sheila Place
Liz Plant
Mike Pringle
Alan Rhodes
Helen-Ann Smith
Parry Tsimbiridis
Muriel Weisz
Andy Wetton
Yvonne Woodhead
Martin Wright
Jason Zadrozny

The following 33 Members voted '**Against**' the motion:-

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

The Chairman declared the motion was lost.

Motion Two

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

“Nottinghamshire County Council notes that from 1st May to 31st October – Value Added Tax (VAT) was set at a zero rate on supplies of PPE as defined by Public Health England’s coronavirus (COVID-19) PPE guidance on 24 April 2020.

This Council notes that from November 1st, face masks and gloves now cost more after the government said a waiver of VAT on personal protective equipment (PPE) would not be extended.

The Treasury has confirmed that the 20% sales tax would once more apply to protective equipment bought by firms and consumers after the six-month exemption.

This is a tax on safety and leaves the poorest vulnerable in our County and is having an adverse impact on businesses and ordinary people who are legally bound to use masks in shops and on public transport.

We note that food and convenience store owners and other businesses that are obliged to use PPE are now facing increased costs just when they are struggling most. An increase of 20% is a significant amount and has led to increases in price for PPE equipment, it has slowed demand and is acting as a barrier to buying PPE for some, at a time when many people’s income has been reduced due to the pandemic.

This Council asks the Leaders of the Ashfield Independents, Conservative / Mansfield Independents and Labour groups to write a joint letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak MP and Treasury Minister Jesse Norman MP to call for this decision to be reversed and that a zero rate on VAT on supplies of PPE is reintroduced until we get to grips with the coronavirus pandemic.”

The motion was put to the meeting and after a roll call vote the Chairman declared the vote was 32 '**For**' the motion and 32 '**Against**' the motion. The Chairman therefore used his casting vote to vote against the motion. The Chairman declared the motion was lost.

Motion Three

A motion was moved by Councillor Richard Jackson and seconded by Councillor Bruce Laughton in terms of resolution 2020/026 below.

The motion was put to the meeting and after a roll call vote the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2020/026

This Council is concerned that water companies continue to allow the discharge of significant amounts of untreated sewage into our watercourses and waterways during periods of heavy rainfall.

It has been reported that in their respective regions last year (2019), untreated sewage was released almost 40,000 times by Severn Trent Water and more than 10,000 times by Anglian Water.

This Council resolves to write to Severn Trent Water and Anglian Water seeking an explanation and demanding that they invest more in the monitoring and reduction of these discharges, in order to prevent raw sewage polluting this county's watercourses, killing wildlife, damaging biodiversity and undermining all attempts to create a cleaner, better environment.

Motion Four

A motion was moved by Councillor Dr John Doddy and seconded by Councillor Kevin Rostance in terms of the resolution 2020/027 below.

The motion was put to the meeting and after a roll call vote the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED 2020/027

This Council:

- recognises the significant increase in the number of Nottinghamshire people working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic and the contribution this

has made to reducing the 'R' (reproduction) number especially during the early stages of the lockdown;

- anticipates that this increase in home working could bring about a permanent change to the way some organisations, businesses and employees work in the future, even after the country returns to more 'normal' circumstances;
- believes that many people have worked from home very happily and successfully, but understands why others have found this change of routine and working environment to be isolating and stressful;
- urges employers across Nottinghamshire to ensure that their employees working from home are given the practical and personal support they need, so that this does not have a negative impact on their mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Motion Five

A Motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Alan Rhodes and seconded by Councillor Nicki Brooks:

"This council notes that on 20th March 2020, as part of his pandemic response package, the Chancellor provided a £20 a week uplift to the basic rate of Universal Credit. This was to reflect the reality that the level of benefits were not adequate to protect the swiftly increasing number of households relying on them as the crisis hit.

This council further notes that in April 2021, this benefit will end, leaving the level of unemployment support at its lowest ever relative to average earnings, and meaning many families income will be below the poverty line.

Therefore this council resolves to:

1. Write to the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak and to the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson demanding that the £20 increase to Universal Credit is made permanent and extended to claimants on legacy benefits.
2. Work with other local government organisations to form a coalition to pressure the government to make the £20 increase to Universal Credit permanent."

The motion was put to the meeting and after a roll call vote the Chairman declared the vote was 31 '**For**' the motion, 31 '**Against**' the motion with 2 abstentions. The Chairman therefore used his casting vote to vote against the motion. The Chairman declared the motion was lost.

Motion Six

A Motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Alan Rhodes and seconded by Councillor Kate Foale:

“This council notes that fireworks impact considerably on the health and wellbeing of the elderly and vulnerable in our communities, together with domestic pets and wildlife.

This council proposes:

1. To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to ensure that only silent fireworks are available for retail.
2. To undertake a proactive public awareness campaign, in partnership with public health and our district, borough and city councils, to encourage our residents to only attend silent firework displays.”

As set out in the Constitution, the time limit of 5.30pm was reached and the remaining business would be carried over to the next meeting.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.30 pm.

CHAIRMAN