

Minutes



Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 29 July 2004 (10.30 am – 2.51 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

	Kate Allsop		Joe Lonergan MBE
	Dick Anthony		J T A Napier
	Chris Baron		R Needham
	Roy R J Barsley	A	K L O'Toole
	John Bell		Mrs Carol Pepper
A	Sue Bennett		Tom Pettengell
	Joyce Bosnjak JP		Mrs Sheila Place
	M M Brandon-Bravo OBE	A	R A Poynter
	Colin Bromfield		Peter D Prebble
	Kenneth Bullivant		Chris Preston
	Richard Butler	A	D E Pulk
	Terry Butler		R S Robinson
	Steve Carroll		Rita Sharpe
	John Carter		Vicki Smailes
	W J Clarke		Mrs Nellie Smedley
	John Cottee	A	Mrs S M Smedley
	M J Cox		B G Smith
	Mrs K L Cutts		A S Stewart
	Yvonne Davidson		Reg Strauther
	Alan Davison		J R Stocks
	V H Dobson		M Storey
A	Andy Freeman		Martin Suthers OBE
A	Glynn Gilfoyle	A	The Hon Joan Taylor*
	John M Hemsall	A	David Taylor
	Stan Heptinstall MBE		Maureen Tewson
	Graham Jackson		Parry Tsimbiridis
	Richard Jackson		Keith Walker
A	Rod Kempster		Mick Warner
	David Kirkham		C P Winterton
A	Bruce Laughton		Yvonne Woodhead
	E D W Llewellyn-Jones	A	A Woodward*
A	Ellie Lodziak		

OPENING PRAYER

Prior to commencement of the formal business of the meeting, prayers were led by the Chairman's Chaplain.

MINUTES

RESOLVED:- **2004/045**

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Council held on 17 June 2004 be agreed as a correct record and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

NOTE

In accordance with the foregoing Resolution, Councillor signed the Minute Book.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor	The Hon Joan Taylor*
“	Arthur Woodward*
“	Andy Freeman
“	Glynn Gilfoyle
“	Ellie Lodziak
“	Stella Smedley
“	Joyce Bosnjak
“	Darrell Pulk
“	J D Taylor
“	R Kempster
“	K O'Toole
“	B Laughton
“	Sue Bennett
“	R Poynter

* denotes on other County Council business.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Declarations of interest were made by Members and Officers as shown below:-

- a) Councillor Richard Butler – personal interest in item 7(d) (Report of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development), on the grounds that his employer is mentioned in the report.

- b) Councillor Terry Butler – personal interest in item 14 (Arrangements to Manage the County Council’s Waste Disposal Responsibilities).
- c) Councillor John Carter – personal interest in item 8 (Revenue Expenditure Final Accounts 2003/2004)?
- d) Councillor Mrs K L Cutts – personal interest in item 8.
- e) Councillor Joe Lonergan – personal interest in item 7(g) (Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Property), by way of his membership of a Parish Council involved in matters related to the Gedling Local Plan, in particular the future use of land at Top Wighay Farm.
- f) Councillor Chris Preston – personal interest in item 8.
- g) Mr Peter Webster (Director of Environment) – prejudicial interest in item 14.

CHAIRMANS’S BUSINESS

The Chairman received from Miss Stephanie Sutton, a student at the Wheldon School, Carlton, a gift of a picture. The gift was in recognition of the County Council’s support to the school community following the serious fire which took place and which had severely affected both the fabric and the morale of the school and its local environment.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

The following petitions were presented to the Chairman by the Members indicated:

- a) On behalf of residents of Treswell, seeking reduction of the speed limit through the village, together with the installation of street lighting and the erection of speed camera signs (presented by Councillor John Hemsall).
- b) From residents in the Forest Park area of Mansfield requesting a mini-roundabout or pedestrian crossing on Old Mill Lane, Mansfield (presented by Councillor Parry Tsimbiridis).
- c) From residents of Newton Avenue, Bingham, opposing the County Council’s application for the erection of wind turbines at Wynhill, Bingham.

RESOLVED:-
2004/046

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

QUESTIONS

(a) Questions under Standing Order 6.1

Four questions had been received as follows:-

- 1) RAF Newton/decision on asylum centre (Councillor Mrs K L Cutts)
- 2) Constitution – Delegation to Chief Officers (Councillor Mrs K L Cutts)
- 3) Investment in schools (Councillor Parry Tsimbiridis)
- 4) Education Statements (Councillor Martin Suthers)

The Questions, together with the responses thereto, are reproduced at Appendix A to these Minutes.

b) Questions under Standing Order 6.2

There were no Questions under Standing Order 6.2.

REPORTS FROM CABINET MEMBERS

Cabinet Members had circulated with the agenda written reports on issues arising within their respective portfolios as follows:-

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------|
| a) Leader | - | Councillor Warner |
| b) Culture | - | Councillor Bromfield |
| c) Deputy Leader | - | Councillor Kirkham |
| d) Economic Development | - | Councillor Winterton |
| e) Education | - | Councillor Storey |
| f) Environment | - | Councillor T Butler |
| g) Finance & Property | - | Councillor Carter |
| h) Resources | - | Councillor Stocks |
| i) Social Services | - | Councillor Anthony |

Each report was presented in turn, with Members having the opportunity to raise comments or questions.

Details of the comments/questions, together with any additional information given orally, are included at Appendix B to these Minutes.

RESOLVED:- **2004/047**

That the reports be noted.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE FINAL ACCOUNTS 2003/4

Members had received a referral report from Cabinet, which

- a) described actual revenue expenditure in 2003/4 compared to the revised estimates, together with contingency allocations made in 2003/4
- b) recommended a number of budget carry forwards of underspendings and the proposed use of/transfers to reserves.

The report was presented by Councillor John Carter (Cabinet Member for Finance and Property), who took and responded to comments related to unallocated expenditure for children with special educational needs and the actual opening date for NET Line One.

It was moved by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Mick Warner and

RESOLVED:- **2004/048**

1. That the contingency position set out in Appendix C to the report be noted.
2. That the year end carry forwards set out in paragraphs 3.7 and 3.8 and Appendix B of the report be approved.
3. That approval be given to the proposed use of and transfers to balances and reserves as detailed in paragraph 6 and Appendix D of the report.
4. That the provisional revenue expenditure accounts for 2003/4 be approved.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2003/04

Council had received a report from the Director of Resources, together with a detailed Appendix (circulated separately), which contained the Statement of Accounts for 2003/04.

It was moved by Councillor John Carter, seconded by Councillor Mick Warner and

RESOLVED:- **2004/049**

That the Council approve the Statement of Accounts for 2003/04

NOTE

Arising from the foregoing resolution, the Statement of Approval of the Statement of Accounts was signed by the Chairman and thereafter forwarded to the Director of Resources.

SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET – PROGRESS REPORT

Councillor Dick Anthony (Cabinet Member for Social Services) presented a referral report from Cabinet which informed of budget pressures being faced by the Social Services Department.

During his presentation, Councillor Anthony indicated that, arising from comments made at Cabinet, arrangements had been made for wide-ranging external and internal consultation on the revised budget proposals. He concluded his remarks by moving a motion in the terms of Resolution 2004/050 below, which was seconded by Councillor Mick Warner.

There then followed debate on the motion, during which comments made at the last Cabinet meeting were withdrawn by Councillor Lonergan, who went on to express appreciation for the consultation period now introduced; discuss the proposals within the report and comment on a range of the detailed proposals included in the report.

In response to debate, Councillors Warner and Anthony referred to the ever increasing calls upon Social Services budgets which arise from national policies and targets and greater numbers of customers.

The Motion was then put to the meeting and, following a show of hands, was declared to be carried. In accordance with Standing Orders, 10 Members requested a Division. The bell was sounded and the roll was called by the Monitoring Officer, who recorded the vote cast by each Member who was present.

The record of votes cast is as follows:-

Members Voting “for” (28).

Councillor Dick Anthony
Councillor Roy Barsley
Councillor John Bell
Councillor Colin Bromfield
Councillor T H Butler
Councillor Steve Carroll
Councillor John Carter
Councillor John Clarke

Councillor James T A Napier
Councillor Richard Needham
Councillor Sheila Place
Councillor Chris Preston
Councillor Rita Sharpe
Councillor Mrs Vicki A Smailes
Councillor Nellie Smedley
Councillor Brian Smith

Councillor Yvonne Davidson

Councillor John R Stocks

Councillor Alan Davison
Councillor Stan Heptinstall MBE
Councillor Graham Jackson
Councillor David Kirkham
Councillor Ellie Lodziak

Councillor Michael Storey
Councillor Reg Strauther
Councillor Parry Tsimbirdis
Councillor Mick Warner
Councillor Yvonne Woodhead

Members Voting “Against” (14).

Councillor Martin Brandon-Bravo
Councillor Kenneth Bullivant
Councillor Richard Butler
Councillor John Cottee
Councillor M J Cox
Councillor John M Hemsall
Councillor Richard Jackson

Councillor Joe Lonergan MBE
Councillor Mrs Carol Pepper
Councillor T Pettengell
Councillor Peter D Prebble
Councillor Andy Stewart
Councillor Martin Suthers OBE
Councillor Keith Walker

RESOLVED:-
2004/050

That approval be given to the measures being taken by the Social Services Department as set out in the report.

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE YOUTH SERVICE PLAN 2004 - 2005

Councillor Colin Bromfield (Cabinet Member for Culture) had circulated a report which concerned the key elements of the Nottinghamshire Youth Service Plan for 2004-2005 and sought approval of the expenditure and associated funding from the Department for Education and Skills.

It was moved by Councillor Bromfield, seconded by Councillor Mick Warner and

RESOLVED:-
2004/051

That Council endorse the Youth Service Plan 2004–2005 and the associated spending proposals concerning funding from the DfES under the Transforming Youth Work and SENDA programmes.

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (2003/04) ON THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLANS FOR NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND GREATER NOTTINGHAM

Councillor Terry Butler (Cabinet Member for Environment) introduced his report, which informed of the contents of the draft 2003/04 Annual Progress Reports (APRs) for Nottinghamshire’s two Local Transport Plans. He referred particularly

to recent changes in DfT guidance on the production of APRs and to the revised programme for 2005/06.

It was moved by Councillor Butler, seconded by Councillor Mick Warner and

RESOLVED:-
2004/052

That Councillor Butler's report be approved as the basis for the contents of the Local Plan Annual Progress Reports for submission to the Government Office for the East Midlands by 31 July 2004.

USE OF URGENCY POWERS

RESOLVED:-
2004/053

That the Chief Executive's report on the use of urgency powers in relation to the following decisions be noted –

Berry Hill sports Park Development (Cabinet decision taken on 23 June 2004)

Financial Assistance to Industry (decision on an exempt information matter taken by the Cabinet Member for Economic Development).

ARRANGEMENTS TO MANAGE THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S WASTE DISPOSAL RESPONSIBILITIES

In accordance with the interests they had declared earlier, Councillor Terry Butler and Mr Peter Webster withdrew from the meeting during discussion and voting on this item.

The Monitoring Officer had circulated with the agenda a report on proposed arrangements to ensure that the Council's responsibilities for waste planning and for its contractual responsibilities for waste management are appropriately undertaken to safeguard the probity and integrity of the County Council's position.

It was moved by Councillor Mick Warner, seconded by Councillor David Kirkham and

RESOLVED:-
2004/054

That approval be given to the arrangements set out in paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Monitoring Officer's report to ensure the proper consideration of the waste

management contract procurement process and the County Council's planning responsibilities relating to waste matters.

**CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL
FOLLOWING ANNUAL MEETING ON 6 MAY 2004**

The Monitoring Officer had circulated with the agenda a report on changes to the Constitution in the following areas;-

1. changes to delegation in the Deputy Leader and Economic Development portfolios
2. abolition of the Public Protection and General Purposes Committee and re-establishment of the Planning Committee as the Planning and Licensing Committee
3. changes to Standing Orders as a consequence of the adoption of a Code of Practice on Planning.

It was moved by Councillor Mick Warner, seconded by Councillor David Kirkham and

RESOLVED:-
2004/055

That approval be given to the revisions set out in Appendices A and B of the Monitoring Officer's report and that she be authorised to make the necessary Constitutional amendments to give effect to the revisions.

ADDITIONAL ITEM

In accordance with the relevant sections of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman had approved the addition to the published agenda of the following report, which was about proposed changes to the date of the full Council meeting in December 2004. The reason for late submission of the report was to ensure early notices of revised arrangements.

DATE OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

It was moved by Councillor Brian Smith, seconded by Councillor Vicki Smailes and

RESOLVED:-
2004/056

That the date of the Council meeting scheduled to be held on 23 December 2004 be changed to 16 December 2004 at 10.30 am.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION(S)

There were no motions to adjourn the Council.

CHAIRMAN

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 29 JULY 2004

QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 6.1

1. Question from Councillor Mrs K L Cutts to the Leader of the County Council.

Would the Leader of the County Council join me in welcoming the Deputy Prime Minister's decision that the RAF Newton site is not a suitable place to build an Asylum centre?

Would he also join me in congratulating local residents, including the Newton Action Group, on presenting such a well-argued case in defence of their area?

Does he agree with me that this proposal was so clearly ill conceived that it should have been withdrawn at a much earlier stage, saving a considerable amount of officer time and public money?

Response by the Leader of the Council

I thank Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts for her questions. I would also like to thank the Labour Government for listening to **ALL** the arguments about the RAF Newton issue. Listening, responding and seeing sense, something Conservative Government's never did.

I have no hesitation in joining with Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts in congratulating local residents and the Newton Action Group for making their case against the original proposals so well. Many of the points made locally in Newton, were also made at the County level, here. Cynics are quick to point out that if people could change things by discussion and debate, then both discussion and debate would be outlawed. I am heartened, and we should all be encouraged that what our constituents say, and indeed what we say, does matter to government.

All levels of government have to take tough decisions. In response to the other 2 questions posed by Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts to me today:

1. I welcome the fact that the Deputy Prime Minister has made a tough decision in Newton's favour, and I believe the County's favour.
2. on the final point however, Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts and I will disagree. When anyone is presented with a problem various solutions have to be examined, so that the correct solution can be identified. It was therefore right and proper that the Government should allow the public to debate and our officers examine the proposal. That happened. They listened. They agreed with us, and came to the correct decision.

2. Question from Councillor Mrs K L Cutts to the Leader of the County Council

A number of decisions are being taken by departments under Delegated author Authority B1, which by definition – ‘General Delegation to Chief Officers’ – appears to be a very broad-ranging power.

Given that the explanation of this power in the constitution is somewhat complex and could be open to various interpretations, would the Leader of the Council clarify how this power is intended to be applied, and would he consider imposing clearer limitations on its use?

Response by the Leader of the Council

It would be helpful if Councillor Cutts would specifically say what problems or difficulties the general delegation to Chief Officers in the constitution is causing or why she considers it necessary to alter this general delegation by imposing “*clearer limitations*”.

The County Council’s Constitution has, compared to other County Council constitutions, a detailed scheme of delegation to Chief Officer which makes it very clear what Chief Officers can and cannot do. It spells this out in the general delegations in section B and in the detailed delegations to individual Chief Officers.

I am told that compared to constitutions of other County Councils of a similar size our Chief Officer scheme if delegation is far more detailed and therefore less open to interpretation. I therefore do not understand why Councillor Cutts feels that ours is open to “*various interpretations*” when the scheme of delegation to Chief Officers is so detailed. Our scheme enables not only Chief Officers and elected members, but also members of the public to understand how Chief Officers take decisions and I would invite Councillor Cutts to say exactly why she feels “*clearer limitations on its use*” are needed.

3. Question from Councillor P Tsimbiridis to the Cabinet Member for Education.

Would the Cabinet Member for Education remind Members of the current investment in schools and particularly about the investment in school buildings.

Would he also remind Members of the investment made in school buildings over the last 20 years.

Response by the Cabinet Member for Education.

Lack of capital investment through the 1980’s and 1990’s left many public buildings, including schools, in a dreadful state of repair.

19 1996/9, £638 million was made available by Central Government – Conservative for capital investment in schools in England. This sum was just sufficient to meet the requirements for new school accommodation that was needed to respond to shifting populations, with little if any left for improvement to the existing building stock.

The good news is that the £638 million has now grown to £5.2 billion in 2004/05 under this Government - Labour. Nottinghamshire has seen its share of available capital grow as the Government funding has increased. Some comparative figures are:

In 1989/90 the total DfES capital allocation to Nottinghamshire was £3.215 million. This increased to £27.881 in 2004/05 an increase in excess of 750%. £10.4 million of this funding is now delegated directly to schools as Devolved Formula Capital. Subject to DfES rules, it is now up to schools how they procure work and spend this allocation although they are encouraged to spend it in line with the schools Asset Management Plan which sets out the condition of the school buildings and the need and timescale for building repairs.

In addition to this, Nottinghamshire has recently been successful in bidding for the following capital resources:

PFI Replacement/refurbishment of secondary schools in Bassetlaw - £127 million

Lottery Provision of sporting facilities at four Comprehensive schools - £5.4 million

New Opportunities fund PE and sport facilities for schools and the wider community - £10.1 million

Sure Start Nursery provision in Bilsthorpe, Clipstone and Blidworth - £1 million

Children's Centre's in areas of deprivation - £4.7 million

As well as the above allocations, Nottinghamshire has also bid to the DfES for funding under the 'Building Schools for the Future' badge. The Government have pledged to replace or refurbish all secondary schools in England over a 15 year period. The Nottinghamshire bid is in excess of £900 million. I understand that the DfES will be announcing in the autumn the next phase of this initiative.

In addition to the DfES allocations, locally in Nottinghamshire we have a positive approach to managing property which has enables us to generate capital receipts to provide further investment opportunities.

The relaxation of capital borrowing rules has enabled Nottinghamshire County Council to increase its internal capital allocation. In 2004/05 the Education Department benefited from this to the tune of £11 million which is enabling us to

replace 3 of our worst primary schools and a PRU. This is all in addition to the DfES capital allocations.

Schools also, as part of their LMS budget, have money for day to day repairs for their school buildings. This money is allocated by formula and it is up to each school and their Governors how much they spend on an annual basis.

Larger repair projects can be funded from the Planned Maintenance budget which is held and managed by the Resources Departments Corporate Property Division. This budget is allocated on need as identified in the Asset Management Plan and schools are benefiting by about £4 million per annum.

It can be seen from the above, that the amount of capital and revenue resources available for replacement, improvement and maintenance of school buildings has increased substantially in the last few years. However, we should not be complacent. In Nottinghamshire we are responsible for a building stock of 365 schools, and although this money is reducing the backlog of repairs, it is still going to take a long time before we can reverse the neglect of the previous government and bring all our schools up to an acceptable standard both by way of maintenance and the suitability of the buildings to teach the children of Nottinghamshire in the 21st Century.

4. Question from Councillor M Suthers to the Cabinet Member for Education.

Now that Nottinghamshire County Council has appointed a Statement Officer, has there been, or is there likely to be, any change in the number of statements issued by the County, having regard to its previous practice of requiring statements to be drafted by Members of the Inclusion Service?

Response by the Cabinet Member for Education

Chairman, I would like to thank Councillor Suthers for his question because it gives me an opportunity to provide Council with an update on our progress with the implementation of the Improvement Plan resulting from the Best Value Review of special education needs.

Councillor Suthers' question referred to the number of statements issued. I think the issue is the speed of which statements are issued. He may remember from his scrutiny support role to the Best Value Review that in order to improve this (i.e. the speed at which statements are issued), three actions in the Best Value Review Improvement Plan were recommended and approved by Cabinet. These were:

- to increase the staffing to ensure one casework officer for each administrative district of Nottinghamshire (and the work of the casework officer includes the statementing officer role);

- to transfer statement drafting responsibilities from the Educational Psychology Service to the casework officer team; and
- to re-locate the casework officer team to the Daybrook and Meadow House bases.

All of these measures are designed to achieve streamlined casework management and increase the team's performance in meeting statutory timelines for issuing statements. The recruitment of staff and the transfer of statement drafting responsibilities are in place. Plans are advanced for the re-location of the casework team.

In 2001-2002 75% of statements were issued on time. This year the casework team is on line to meet the target of 82%.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 29 JULY 2004

REPORTS FROM CABINET MEMBERS (Agenda Item 7)

a) Leader of the Council's Portfolio

Councillor Warner introduced his report and responded to comment and questions in relation to the following areas:-

- the arrangements within the Local Government Association for ensuring politically balanced membership (the “weighted formula”) which produces an assembly which reflects voting patterns across the country. Councillor Warner articulated a view that the current membership was therefore temporary.
- the use of Anti social Behaviour Orders and the outcomes of a meeting he had attended in north Nottinghamshire, where he expected increased partnership working with the Police and District Councils to tackle unacceptable behaviour in the local community . There was an expectation of parental control in cases where young people were involved.
- the success of the Greater Nottinghamshire Bike Ride and the input from Senior Officers in their own time, together with an assurance that the wearing of safety helmets by young people participating in the Ride is something which the Cabinet Member for Culture will pursue.
- issues relating to the County Council's business arrangement with Sport England, the Council's partner in the provision of facilities at the National Water Sports Centre, Holme Pierrepont.
- views as to the appropriateness of the use of Lottery funding for projects which were formerly funded by Central Government.

b) Culture and Community Portfolio

Introducing his report and following on from discussion on the previous item, Councillor Bromfield reinforced views expressed by the Amateur Rowing Association regarding future rowing at Holme Pierrepont, which would be valuable during forthcoming discussions with Sport England.

Councillor Broomfield confirmed also that further consideration would be given to the possibility of ensuring increased use of safety helmets during the Bike Ride, especially by young people.

c) Deputy Leader's Portfolio

In the absence of Councillor Kirkham, his report was introduced by Councillor John Carter, who indicated that written responses would be sent to any questions.

The issues raised on Councillor Kirkham's report were as follows:-

- a request for further information on progress of mainframe migration, in particular the impact on revenue collection, where Members asked whether there was any continuing backlog of work within Social Services Department on revenue collection
- a request for details of the cost of Federation Against Software Theft (FAST)
- a request for further information about the mentoring arrangements within the MENSKI project, where Members sought details as to cost and whether the mentors were to be professionals or volunteers.
- doorstep selling, where Members raised concerns about both reconnoitring property for future crime opportunities and the "employment" of vulnerable people to sell door to door. Members felt that the County Council's representatives on the Police Authority should raise the first wave in their meetings and that the second could be followed up by the County Council.
- a request for a report back on Fireworks.

d) Economic Development Portfolio

Councillor Winterton presented his report and responded to comment/questions as follows:-

- the future of ERDF funding is still under consideration
- within the international textiles sector, high level consensus had been achieved on how to deal with problems within the textile industries and a positive view as to how to deal with the jobs of the future and current fracture employment.
- the rationale for the name of the Worksop I-Centre (the Turbine Centre), where the focal point of the site is a modern wind turbine. The ethos of the centre is to locate, grow and spin out companies into the local economy, thus reflecting the way in which a wind turbine works.

e) Education Portfolio

Councillor Storey drew Councillors' attention specifically to the forthcoming retirement of Mr John Berridge from the County Council, who was to become chair of DAT, and his replacement by Mr John Slater, together with the Celebration of success conference at Newark Showground.

During discussion, the following points were raised.

- the freedoms for individual schools arising from the DfES 5-year strategy document especially the right for specialist schools to select 10% of their pupils
- respective political views nationally as to the future role of local education authorities
- concerns about ring-fencing budgets, which could lead to low expectations of LEA deliverables.

Councillor Storey also indicated that there was little concern about the concept of specialist schools, although he should widespread concerns at the possibility of selection of up to 10% of their pupils. He questioned where catchment area pupils displaced by selection would go. He acknowledged that LEAs generally should be better at supporting/challenging schools, but was concerned about the possibility of school ownership of land/property, especially the lack of any funding arrangements for affordability gaps (ie between budgets available within schools and the cost of planned or emergency maintenance).

f) Environment Portfolio

Councillor Butler congratulated staff involved with the Council's success in the National Transport Awards and responded to comments/questions as follows:

- the reference to commitments by the entire Council in the Transport Authority of the Year submission was in relation to public transport generally. It was not meant to infer unanimous agreement to NET.
- there was acknowledgement of individual Members' comments about bus services in West Bridgford; minimal disruption to the travelling public arising from the way in which repairs were undertaken on the A614; the new bus service to Adbolton Mobile Home Park; the actions being taken to identify buildings at risk.

g) Finance and Property Portfolio

Arising from the interest she had declared earlier, Councillor Mrs Cutts left the meeting during discussion on this report, which was introduced by Councillor John Carter.

During discussion, reference was made to the time being taken to complete Local Plan Reviews.

h) Resources Portfolio

Councillor Stocks recorded formally Members' thanks for the work undertaken by Dr Eric Cliff in his role as Chair of the Business Planning Review Board. He referred also to the appointment of Mr Gary Smurden-White as Chair and the response to consultation on Best Value Performance Indicators being prepared by Officers. Leaders of the Groups would receive a copy prior to it being submitted.

Members' comments on the remainder of the report sought clarity on the financial position of DLO's.

i) Social Services Portfolio

Comment on Councillor Anthony's report included praise for the work undertaken at Clayfields House and disappointment at news that the Youth Justice Board had indicated an intention to reduce levels of local authority secure accommodation.