



meeting	COUNTY COUNCIL	
date	18 may 2006	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Purpose of the Report

This report covers some of my key activities as Leader since the last County Council meeting during April and May.

Meetings between Leaders and Chief Executives of Nottinghamshire County Council and Districts

The Chief Executive and I met with the Leaders and Chief Executives of Newark & Sherwood District Council and, also, Rushcliffe Borough Council, where we purely discussed the A46.

Meetings with District Councils are ongoing, so would be happy to hear from other Members about major items that might be raised in these meetings.

Meetings attended with Chief Executive:

Other regular meetings attended:

- East Midlands Regional Assembly meeting.
- Nottinghamshire Older People's Advisory Group (OPAG).
- Safer Ashfield Partnership Steering Group meeting.

Routine meetings with Corporate Communications and the Nottingham Evening Post

The Deputy Leader and I continue to hold fortnightly meetings with Corporate Communications and a representative from the Nottingham Evening Post, where current and forthcoming areas of interest are discussed.

Continue to hold fortnightly Communication Portfolio meetings with Deputy Leader and officers.

Also continue to have regular briefing meetings with the CHAD.

Chinese Welfare Association

As part of the ongoing programme of liaison with the minority communities in the County, several Members of the Chinese Welfare Association were invited to have lunch with me, at County Hall, in April.

The visiting delegates were mostly members of the business or university community, but the membership of the Association is made up of Chinese people from a variety of backgrounds throughout Nottinghamshire. The group's headquarters is at the International Community Centre on Mansfield Road in the City. However, 80% of the membership (over 400) live in the County.

I welcomed the delegation to County Hall, then they had a tour of County Hall. During that tour they met several other Members and visited the Chairman's Suite where their particular interest was the Queen's signature in the Visitor's book!

All parties are keen to maintain these new links and further meetings and visits are to be planned in the future.

Municipal Journal

Nottinghamshire County Council will be featured in an eight page supplement of the Municipal Journal (MJ) on Thursday 11th May. The MJ is a key stakeholder publication which is well read by peers in local government and those working with local government nationally and regionally. It offers councils an opportunity to showcase their plans and achievements and features a different council each month. The supplement will feature the new strategic plan 'All Together Better', the Sherwood Forest Lottery Fund bid, plans for moving the organisation towards being a civic leader and other key proposals and developments. Copies of the supplement will be distributed to all members and will also be available in County Council buildings and libraries.

Meeting with Nottinghamshire District MPs

On 7th February the Deputy Leader, Assistant Chief Executive and I met with Nottinghamshire MP's Geoff Hoon, Paddy Tipping and Vernon Coaker. We were able to brief them about the Council's 2006/07 budget, and the progress on the Local Area Agreement. We also talked about the scope for new ideas including better integration between local government and the health service and the potential for greater accountability of health services to locally elected representatives.

Please feel free to contact me with ideas/proposals/issues at any time.

COUNCILLOR DAVID KIRKHAM
Leader of the County Council