

report



meeting	COUNTY COUNCIL	
date	6 APRIL 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 March and April.

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 Broxtowe Borough Council, Nottingham City Council, Gedling Borough Council, where we discussed better partnership working, in particular the Local Area Agreements and the Community Strategy.

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.

Ministerial Regional Roundtable

This event was held in Nottingham where I discussed with Leaders of local authorities within the East Midlands local issues including Core Cities and the future of local government.

Meetings attended with Chief Executive

- 3 Cities/3 Counties meeting;
- Out and About visits to The Family Centre, at Newark – County Enterprise Foods, in Worksop.

Other regular meetings attended

- CHAD briefing;
- Met with various Nottinghamshire District MPs – Patrick Mercer, Alan Meale.

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 the Deputy Leader and officers.

Voluntary Sector Partnership Forum

Chaired this joint meeting which is open to the Voluntary Sector across the County to discuss issues of mutual concern. Roger Latham up-dated on the budget and forthcoming issues and consideration was also given to the LAA, Community Cohesion and quality systems in the Voluntary Sector.

Roadshows

During March I spoke at eight staff and manager roadshows with the Chief Executive and Assistant Chief Executive. These were held at the Nottinghamshire International Clothing Centre, Kelham Hall, the Clumber Park Hotel and County Hall. This was an opportunity to outline my vision for the Council and to set out our future strategic direction. Participants asked a wide range of questions and the Deputy Leader and a number of senior managers joined the panel to provide answers. Although there are some challenging issues for staff as a result of the budget, feedback suggests that the roadshows provided a welcome opportunity for staff to understand the changes that are taking place.

London

Councillor Jon Collins (Leader, Nottingham City Council), Steve Calvert and I travelled to London to meet the Minister for Transport, where we discussed extensions to the Nottingham Express Transit Scheme.

Bangladeshi community

Met with representatives of the Bangladeshi community – will report at County Council.

Chairman of the County Council's Luncheon

Attended a luncheon, hosted by the Chairman of the County Council, to congratulate recipients on their recent awards in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

Nottingham Trent University Supper

Attended a 'supper' with Vice-Chancellor, Professor Neil Gorman and senior colleagues, at the Newton Building, Nottingham where we discussed issues relating to economic regeneration and sustainability.

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

COUNCILLOR DAVID KIRKHAM
Leader of the County Council