

Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 11th July 2013 (10.30 am – 5.00 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

COUNCILLORS

John Allin (Chairman)

Pauline Allan (Vice-Chairman)

Reg Adair		Darren Langton
Roy Allan	A	Bruce Laughton
Chris Barnfather		Keith Longdon
Alan Bell		Rachel Madden
Joyce Bosnjak		Diana Meale
Nicki Brooks		John Ogle
Andrew Brown		Philip Owen
Richard Butler		Michael Payne
Steve Calvert		John Peck JP
Ian Campbell		Sheila Place
Steve Carr		Liz Plant
Steve Carroll		Darrell Pulk
John Clarke		Alan Rhodes
John Cottee		Ken Rigby
Jim Creamer		Tony Roberts MBE
Mrs Kay Cutts		Mrs Sue Saddington
Maureen Dobson		Andy Sissons
Dr John Doddy		Pam Skelding
Boyd Elliott		Stella Smedley MBE JP
Sybil Fielding		Martin Suthers OBE
Kate Foale		Parry Tsimbirdis
Stephen Garner	A	Gail Turner
Glynn Gilfoyle		Keith Walker
Kevin Greaves		Stuart Wallace
Alice Grice		Muriel Weisz
John Handley		Gordon Wheeler
Colleen Harwood		John Wilkinson
Stan Heptinstall MBE		Jacky Williams
Tom Hollis		John Willmott
Richard Jackson		Yvonne Woodhead
Roger Jackson		Liz Yates
David Kirkham		Jason Zadrozny
John Knight		

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mick Burrows	(Chief Executive)
Geoff Russell	(Policy, Planning & Corporate Services)
Tim Gregory	(Environment and & Resources)
Jon Wilson	(Adult Social Care, Health & Public Protection)
John Slater	(Children, Families & Cultural Services)
Carl Bilbey	(Policy, Planning & Corporate Services)
Martin Done	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Chris Holmes	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Liz Pritchett	(Policy, Planning & Corporate Services)
Karen Townrow	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Anna Vincent	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Michelle Welsh	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)

OPENING PRAYER

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

FORMER COUNCILLOR DAVID TAYLOR

Members stood in silence in remembrance of former Councillor David Taylor.

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED: 2013/034

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the County Council held on 16th May 2013 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bruce Loughton (Personal) and Councillor Gail Turner (Personal).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

(a) Former Councillor David Taylor

The Chairman, Councillor Alan Rhodes, Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts, Councillor Stan Heptinstall, Councillor John Handley, Councillor Richard Jackson, Councillor Stella Smedley and Councillor John Cottee all spoke in memory of former Councillor David Taylor.

(b) Visitors

The Chairman informed the Chamber that a group of students and teachers from Retford School were visiting to observe the Council meeting.

(c) Presentations and Awards

Institute of Civil Engineers East Midlands Merit Awards

Councillor Kevin Greaves introduced the award which acknowledged that The Mansfield Public Transport Interchange Scheme had received a Highly Commended Award in the medium project category, reflecting excellent partnership working between the County Council, Mansfield District Council and Kier. The Chairman received the award from Councillor Greaves and presented it to the members of staff who were present.

Customer Service Excellence Award

Councillor John Knight introduced the Customer Excellence Award which had been awarded to the Libraries, Archives, Information and Community Learning group of services. The Service had been previously awarded the Charter Mark Award which this new award replaces. The Chairman received the award from Councillor Knight and presented it to the members of staff who were present.

5. CONSTITUENCY ISSUES

Set out in Appendix A to these minutes is a full note of the issues discussed by Councillors as follows:-

Councillor Jason Zadrozny - Deteriorating road surfaces and overgrown hedges

Councillor Tom Hollis – Increase in opening hours at Huthwaite Library

Councillor Sue Saddington – Closure of Kelham Bridge

6. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

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

- (1) Councillor Keith Walker regarding the request for a school crossing in Balderton
- (2) Councillor Jacky Williams regarding the state of grass cutting across Broxtowe
- (3) Councillor Maureen Dobson regarding a request for illuminated speed indicator signs along the A1133 at Langford
- (4) Councillor Colleen Harwood regarding traffic on Ellesmere Road, Forest Town, Mansfield
- (5) Councillor Andy Sissons regarding the provision of taxi ranks, White Hart Street, Mansfield
- (6) Councillor Stan Heptinstall regarding parking Issues at Frederick Road, Stapleford

RESOLVED: 2013/035

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

7. QUESTIONS

(a) QUESTIONS TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AUTHORITY

No questions were received

(b) QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Eight questions had been received as follows

- (1) from Councillor John Cottee regarding the investment to Nottinghamshire County Cricket to secure Ashes Test Cricket (Councillor Alan Rhodes replied)
- (2) from Councillor Tom Hollis regarding the successful bid of the English and Welsh Cricket Boards in hosting the 2019 World Cup, and if the Chairman

of the Culture Committee welcomes Nottinghamshire's inclusion in the event (Councillor John Knight replied)

- (3) from Councillor Liz Yates concerning the reduction in the number of potatoes used in school dinners due to the current cost, and would the decision be reversed if these costs fall (Councillor Sheila Place replied)
- (4) from Councillor Jason Zadrozny regarding the rationale for spending £500,000 on footpath resurfacing to reduce obesity levels, as reported nationally in the press last week (Councillor Kevin Greaves replied)
- (5) from Councillor Richard Jackson asking why Nottinghamshire County Council has shirked its responsibility to identify a realistically affordable list of priority transport projects, to be considered by the D2N2 Local Transport Board for, inclusion in its agreed programme of works for submission to the Department for Transport (Councillor Kevin Greaves replied)
- (6) from Councillor Gordon Wheeler regarding residents' fury over the continuing environmental and highway disruption, caused by construction of Line 2 & 3 and asking for agreement that it was wise to withdraw from the tram project (Councillor Kevin Greaves replied)
- (7) from Councillor Tom Hollis regarding any progress made in relation to parking issues, at the entrance of Mill Lane, Huthwaite with its junction with Common Road (Councillor Kevin Greaves replied)
- (8) from Councillor Philip Owen asking to reassure the residents of the Horsendale Estate, that they will continue to be exempt from penalties for using the Nuthall Bus Gate (Councillor Kevin Greaves replied)

The full responses to these questions are set out in Appendix B to these Minutes

8. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS 2012/2013

Councillor David Kirkham introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2013/36 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Darren Langton

RESOLVED: 2013/036

- 1) That the 2012/13 year end revenue position be noted.
- 2) That the year-end carry forwards set out in section 4.12 and Appendix B be approved.

- 3) That the level of County Fund Balances set out in section 7.1 and Appendix A be approved.
- 4) That the movements in reserves as detailed in section 7 and Appendix D be noted.
- 5) That the Capital Programme and its financing be noted.
- 6) That it be noted the Council's Prudential Indicators were not breached in 2012/13.
- 7) That the treasury management outturn report in Appendix G be noted .

9. NOTICE OF MOTION

MOTION ONE

A motion in terms of resolution 2013/037 below was moved by Councillor Ian Campbell and seconded by Councillor Alan Rhodes.

The following amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Jason Zadrozny and seconded by Councillor Ken Rigby:-

"This Council recognises the suffering of local residents and shares the outrage of millions of people across this country at the behaviour of the financial sector and big business over recent years.

This council notes the work carried out by the coalition government to crack down On tax avoidance including:

- A permanent bank levy designed to raise £2.5 billion a year to make sure banks pay their share and to discourage risky activity
- Replaced the failed system of financial regulation
- The UK signing an agreement that will secure billions of pounds from Swiss bank accounts, hidden away by people trying to avoid tax in this country. The UK is also working hard to recover money in other tax havens such as Lichtenstein.

The Council asserts that there is an alternative to raise public funds namely the levy of a Financial Transaction Tax of 0.05% on speculative banking transactions.

This Council recognises that the government needs to go further and supports Calls to:

- Negotiate with our global partners to introduce a Financial Transaction Tax
- Introduce the Financial Services (Banking Reform) Bill to introduce an electronic ring-fence for high street banks to protect customers from casino banking

This council urges all MPs to keep fighting for financial justice and to write to all Nottinghamshire MPs with a copy of this motion”.

Council adjourned from 1.55 pm to 2.05 pm to allow members to consider the amendment to the motion. The amendment was not accepted by the mover of the motion, and so following a debate the amendment was put to the meeting and defeated by a show of hands.

The original motion was debated and put to the meeting. Following a show of hands it was:-

RESOLVED: 2013/037

That this Council recognises the suffering forced upon local residents as a result of the Coalition Governments cuts programme and the impact upon the NHS and local government, and asserts that there is an alternative to its ideologically driven attack upon the lowest paid and public services – namely the levy of a Financial Transaction Tax of 0.05% on speculative banking transactions.

This Council therefore calls upon the Government to enact a Financial Transaction Tax and use the revenues from this measure to tackle poverty and reverse on-going reductions in Central Government Funding to the NHS and local councils.

MOTION TWO

A Motion in terms of resolution 2013/038 below was moved by Councillor Ian Campbell and seconded by Councillor Alan Rhodes.

Following a debate the motion was put to the meeting and after a show of hands it was:-

RESOLVED: 2013/038

This Council calls upon the Government to keep the East Coast Mainline in public hands and not to re-privatise.

Such a step would not require a spending commitment from a future chancellor. It would mean that the contributions made by fare-paying passengers and other tax payers could be used for cutting fares or for public reinvestment in rail, and not diverted into the pockets of private company shareholders.

We recognise that the rail network is vitally important to the UK's economic and social livelihood as well as a greener and more sustainable future and is key to economic regeneration and job creation across the country.

However, the present structure of the UK rail network does not provide value for money or fairness for passengers and taxpayers. The UK has the highest fares in Europe, with no incentive for private investment, and public subsidy that has doubled since privatisation.

10. ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

Arising from the response to his question to Councillor Alan Rhodes concerning the Investment to Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club to secure Ashes Test Cricket, Councillor Cottee moved

“That the Council do now stand adjourned for a token period”

The motion having been duly seconded was debated.

In accordance with the constitution no vote was taken.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.00 pm

CHAIRMAN

APPENDIX A

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11TH JULY 2013

3 MINUTE SPEECH

Councillor Jason Zadrozny

"I have deja-vu. On the 20th September 2012 I made a constituency speech on the subject of the deteriorating service from the Highways Department. The press has been awash with stories and members' mailbags have been brimming over with complaints. So I was shocked to read in yesterday's Ashfield Chad the guest column by the Chairman of the Highways Committee. He was surprised that grass even existed, let alone that we had to cut it.

I have an email from a senior Officer at Ashfield District Council about the transfer of responsibilities. She said that during the transfer of responsibility from ADC (Ashfield District Council) to NCC (Nottinghamshire County Council), we provided area maps to inform NCC where the verges are. These were provided along with route sheets and lists of streets where the highways verges were due to transfer. Twice because the County Council lost the first set. We agreed a joint working method with NCC whereby they agreed to let us know where they were due to be grass cutting so ADC teams could attend the area at the same time to address the litter that is produced from grass cutting. Unfortunately this information has not been provided. I asked NCC to meet with my lead officers to walk areas so my lead officers could advise the problem areas. This was not taken up – no wonder Councillor Greaves didn't understand the responsibilities of his role.

In his piece he asserts that it is getting better, it's not. I stopped one new member of staff cutting the grass in drive gear not cut gear which made the verges look a terrible mess. Not to mention the fact that Districts have not been informed prior to cutting so litter has been shredded meaning it is now impossible to collect.

Lastly Councillor Greaves says he doesn't collect the cuttings as it's not about aesthetics, it's about safety. Well let's not forget the tragic motorbike fatality on the A644 in my colleague's division on 16th June, where poor visibility due to the overgrown verges is cited as a possible contributory factor. I think that cutting grass which is over 2 feet tall and leaving it to rot on pavements is a safety issue.

Councillor Greaves says it's like painting the Forth Bridge, but that's only painted every 25 years now and it looks like it's been that long since they've cut the grass in Stanton Hill. Some areas still haven't had their first cut; other areas have had three cuts in a week. We even have residents dumping more grass on it rather than pay for it to be collected in our bins with a 'what's good enough for the goose' attitude.

The Council has created a public health risk, not to mention the many highways speed and warning signs that are being masked by overgrown hedges because hedges haven't been cut back at all – the new programme is now a farce. Councillor Greaves says “it's fair to say that we've had a few teething problems”. Well I think he's had more teething problems than a crocodile with pyorrhoea.”

Councillor Tom Hollis

“My division Sutton West, has little left by the way of community infrastructure. What we do have left was fiercely guarded and developed by my predecessor Fiona Asbury. I want to talk about one of the few community assets my area has left – Huthwaite Library.

When the last review of the libraries took place under the last administration, Fiona fought for and got an increase in opening hours because her evidence and argument for its need locally was so persuasive. Now as a member for the Culture Committee, we have been told that the future of Nottinghamshire's library service is to be reviewed again.

We have been presented with selected sections from the Arts Council for England's report; Libraries for the Future with words like 'review' and 'co-locate'. The review, knowing Labour's thirst for reducing services in Ashfield scares me and my local residents. Huthwaite library is an essential local asset located within an area with poor public transport links into the town centre where many families still cannot afford a car.

It provides important business resource, especially for small local businesses. Huthwaite library is helping to revitalise a struggling local neighbourhood. It is a place where people come to know themselves and their community.

Younger residents in my division say it teaches teens important life skills. It provides free tutoring, homework help and summer reading programmes for kids and teens that help to bridge the economic divide that impacts students' academic performance. Essentially it's a people's university.

Huthwaite Library provides access to the Arts Information, recreation and education for all, not just those who can afford them. As Keith Richards said “ *the public library is the great equaliser*” and despite the rising cost of these things, our libraries offer them free of charge enabling people of any income level to attend. In addition, library book groups allow people to explore and discuss the literacy arts and introduce at-risk youths to literature. The best part is it's all free and open to the public who should be at the forefront of our minds when any reviews are taking place.

I took the time to read the full report of the Arts Council, their main mission statement was missed out of the report presented to the Culture Committee members, it was this;

It is time to reassert the value, role and purpose of public libraries, and point to how they can respond to change in order to remain at the heart of the community

This Chamber and my residents can rest assured that whatever plans the ruling group may be contemplating in regard to the future of our libraries, I'll be fighting to make sure Huthwaite library remains at the heart of our community."

Councillor Sue Saddington

"On many occasions Kelham Bridge in my Division has been closed due to flooding or as a consequence of vehicle accidents.

Earlier this year in February a car hit the Grade II listed structure. Emergency repairs were carried out, but from July 24th the bridge will be closed for a month for further repair work.

Closure causes great inconvenience for local residents and businesses in Kelham and the wider area. The bridge is the crossing of choice for HGV's which use the MARR route, the only alternatives are the bridges at Dunham on Trent and Gunthorpe, both are substantial distances away.

Newark is brought to a standstill when the bridge is out of action.

Kelham is a conservation village and, even without diversions, roads are too narrow to take the amount of heavy traffic which has evolved over the years. As a result road verges have been damaged and there are constant potholes appearing.

Along the current diversion route is a 5 lane mini island at South Muskham which can be dangerous in normal conditions. During the last diversion I witnessed 5 near misses as I waited at the island.

Kelham has long needed a bypass and I was initially heartened to read in the Newark Advertiser that it would be amongst the schemes put forward by Nottinghamshire County Council to be considered by the D2N2 Local Transport body. However, I believe the headline belies the truth.

As reported earlier this year, the Department for Transport's funding allocation for D2N2 Local Transport body is £46.8 million over 4 years, so it is unlikely each Council will be able to deliver more than one or two large projects in that period.

Instead of making a proper decision on one or two projects of highest priority and putting all the Authority's weight behind them, Nottinghamshire County Council have submitted 6 schemes totalling more than £50 million, with only £46.8 million available to the whole of the D2N2 area.

I understand that Councillor Greaves may not want to tell Councillor Mrs Smedley that Ollerton roundabout is not the Council's number one priority. It would not be a pretty sight. However, I too would be difficult to approach if the Kelham Bypass were overlooked.

But Chairman that is what being in power is all about – making difficult decisions, justifying those decisions to communities and standing by the outcomes.

By shirking that responsibility and selecting an unrealistic number of projects for the funding available, this Labour Administration is ensuring that most of these communities will have had their hopes raised, only to be dashed.

If the Kelham Bypass is truly not this Administration's top priority then tell both me and my residents and take responsibility.

I would like to invite the Chairman of Transport and Highways Committee to meet me in Kelham on July 24th to obtain a clear idea of the problem which occurs when Kelham Bridge is closed.”

APPENDIX B

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11th JULY 2013 QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor John Cottee

“Would the Leader explain why, in October 2012, he voted against a proposal to invest in Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club to secure Ashes Test cricket and associated economic and community benefits for the County, but then appeared in the media last month supporting an example of those community benefits, namely the Ashes Legacy mural painted by young people from Positives Futures in Cotgrave and Hawtonville?”

Would he acknowledge that funding for the cricket scoreboard, about which he spread so much political misinformation, was an essential part of the deal to secure the Ashes and all of these associated benefits?

Is it not the height of hypocrisy for the Labour Leader to welcome the benefits of the Ashes, when Labour councillors opposed the investment which made this possible?”

Response from Councillor Alan Rhodes, Leader of the Council

This administration is fully supportive of Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club and I am personally thrilled that the world's biggest cricket match - the First Ashes Test - is being hosted here in Nottingham. We welcome and value all the tourism, economic benefits and spotlight it brings to Nottinghamshire. In fact, Labour administrations have a strong track record of supporting the cricket club; in 2007 the Labour Cabinet approved a loan of £1.23 million to the Club to help fund the development of the New Stand; so I am comfortable in refuting any charges of hypocrisy. We have proved our support, and have backed this up with sound decision making. Hypocrisy is suggesting we are all in this together and then during a period of cuts, closures and redundancies you awarded £900,000 for a scoreboard.

As far as last year's award to the Club is concerned, I have made my views on that decision publicly clear and I stand by them. However, my views on the funding of the new scoreboard should in no way preclude me from congratulating young people on their positive contribution towards social inclusion and community cohesion. They deserve credit and acknowledgement regardless of politics, and as Leader of this Council it is a key part of my role to provide this.

We will be meeting with the Cricket Club in the coming weeks to discuss how we can continue to work together in the future, however this will not involve granting public money to the Cricket Club at a time when we are facing such difficult times financially, including the £132 million hole in the budget the previous Conservative Administration has left us with and the huge reduction to Local Government Grants made by the Coalition Government.

We must now look forward and work hard to ensure that the maximum economic benefits from the Ashes and future international matches are achieved for the residents and businesses of Nottinghamshire.”

Question to the Chairman of Culture Committee from Councillor Tom Hollis

“After the successful bid of the English and Welsh Cricket Boards in hosting the 2019 Cricket World Cup; with the inclusion of Trent Bridge as 1 of the 8 venues hosting the games, does the Chairman of the Culture Committee welcome Nottinghamshire’s inclusion in this worldwide event and the cultural and economic benefits this will bring?”

Response from Councillor John Knight, Chairman of the Culture Committee

“This question is technically incorrect and so I will amend his question and then answer my own amended question which is what politics is all about.

Whilst he is correct in stating that England and Wales will host the 2019 Cricket World Cup he is in fact I’m afraid presumptuous to assume that Trent Bridge will be one of the venues. In fact there will be a bidding war for the venues and any ground that is Class B or above can bid so it is possible that Trent Bridge won’t be a venue. However I am absolutely certain that it will be because it is a world famous sporting venue in a world famous county famous for its cricket heritage.

So I’ll answer the question on the basis and the presumption that Trent Bridge will be one of the venues and of course you’ve bowled me (in cricket parlance) a bit of a full toss. Of course I will be happy that it will be here, I am a cricket fan. I am thrilled that Trent Bridge will be a venue. I am also of course thrilled with the cultural and economic benefits that this will bring and as the Leader has stated on that basis I will be meeting Lisa Pursehouse to offer the services of the County Council to make sure that if it does come, and I am sure it will come, that it will be a massive economic and cultural success.”

Question to Chairman of Personnel Committee

“As Nottinghamshire County Council is reducing the number of potatoes used in school dinners due to the current cost of this produce, would the Chairman of the Personnel Committee confirm that this decision will be reversed if these costs fall, and that the Council will continue to prioritise locally sourced ingredients?”

Response from Councillor Sheila Place, Chairman of Personnel Committee

“Firstly can I reassure Councillor Yates that potatoes remain a firm favourite of pupils and as such remain on the menu three times a week. Some minor changes have been made to the menu to compensate for the increased cost in an effort to maintain a selling

price of £2 per meal for the fourth consecutive year. These changes were made after food tasting exercises took place with a number of pupils.

Of course when the next menu planning exercise commences the cost of ingredients will again be calculated but I can reassure Councillor Yates that Nottinghamshire was pioneering in its use of fresh locally sourced ingredients starting some 8 years ago and remains very firmly committed to continue. You will be pleased to know I'm sure that meal sales continue to increase with take-up levels at their highest for over 20 years.

We are committed to the health and wellbeing of the children in Nottinghamshire and will keep the menu for school dinners under close scrutiny. We want to ensure that children have access to an affordable, healthy school dinner produced with locally sourced quality ingredients."

Question to the Chairman of Transport & Highways Committee from Councillor Jason Zadrozny

"Would the Chairman take this opportunity to explain to members, the rationale for spending £500,000 on footpath resurfacing to reduce obesity levels, as reported locally and nationally in the press last week?"

Response from Councillor Kevin Greaves, Chairman of Transport & Highways Committee

"I can confirm that £500,000 of footway improvements are being funded through a £2m package of additional government money awarded to Nottinghamshire County Council earlier this year, following the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement.

£1.5m of Nottinghamshire's allocation is being put towards supporting economic growth, supporting existing and creation of new jobs through a strategic route improvement plan, including as a priority, improving the A614 between Nottingham and the A1 and improving transport connections between the North and South of the County.

I would note that the extra Government funding, while welcome, is only sufficient to upgrade footways in four parts of the county, so we are prioritising areas where footways are worn out and perhaps becoming unsafe and needing regular minor repairs to keep them in a safe and useable condition.

We are also considering areas where data suggests benefits from promoting healthier lifestyles under the Council's new responsibilities for Public Health will be beneficial by making it easier and more appealing for people to make short trips by foot, rather than taking the car.

Where we have made similar improvements elsewhere, local businesses and schools have reported an increase in people walking.

Physical activity is a key public health priority as it is essential for good health, helping to prevent or manage over 20 conditions and diseases including heart disease, diabetes, some cancers and asthma.”

Question to the Chairman of Transport & Highways Committee from Councillor Richard Jackson

“Would the Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee explain why Nottinghamshire County council has shirked its responsibility to identify a realistically affordable list of priority transport projects to be considered by D2N2 Local Transport Board for inclusion in its agreed programme of works for submission to the Department for Transport?

Would he acknowledge that the approximate combined cost of £55 million for the six schemes put forward* far outweighs the DfT funding notionally allocated for the LEP area?

Would he accept that by failing to properly identify its top priorities, Nottinghamshire as a highways authority is certain to have given false hope to at least some of these communities and even runs the risk of none of the schemes being progressed?”

*Gedling Access Road; Kelham Bypass; Dukeries Railway Line; A60 Bus Priority Mansfield; Worksop A57/A60 Roundabout; Ollerton Roundabout

Response from Councillor Kevin Greaves, Chairman of Transport & Highways Committee

“On 6th June Transport and Highways Committee approved 6 schemes which were at an early stage of their detailed design and economic assessment but which form the Council’s priority for investment in major transport schemes.

Of course not all of the six Nottinghamshire schemes will be successful in the first round of funding as their total value does exceed that available. However this is the scheme assessment stage.

Therefore by including schemes which can be delivered relatively quickly as well as others which will require additional work to enable them to be delivered later ensures that Nottinghamshire is best positioned to secure funding for future investment in its transport and highways network.

Further work to establish greater confidence in the cost of delivering each scheme and to undertake a detailed assessment of the economic and environmental benefits of each scheme is now being undertaken on a common basis with a similar number of schemes from Derbyshire, Derby and Nottingham. It is this that will determine a D2N2 priority programme that delivers the best economic benefit for the D2N2 area as a whole and for Nottinghamshire.

The D2N2 Local Transport Body met on 24th June and approved an assurance framework including the common assessment process now being used.

I am pleased to report that early indications confirm that of the Nottinghamshire schemes the Gedling Access Road has the potential to deliver the greatest economic benefits to support existing jobs and to support the creation of new jobs in the County. Similar benefits from the improvements proposed for the A57/A60 roundabout in Worksop are also identified.

The D2N2 Local Transport Body meets again on 22nd July to determine its major transport scheme programme from 2015 to 2019.”

Question to the Chairman of Transport & Highways Committee from Councillor Gordon Wheeler

“In light of the news that Nottingham’s tram system has lost more than a quarter of its passengers in the last five years, and given residents’ fury over the continuing environmental and highway disruption caused by construction of Lines 2 & 3, would the Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee agree that Nottinghamshire County council was wise to withdraw from the tram project and the significant risks associated with it?

Does he detect an excessive degree of optimism in Tramlink Nottingham’s claim that the two additional lines will reverse consistently this decline on the popularity of the tram?”

Response from Councillor Kevin Greaves, Chairman of Transport & Highways Committee

“The decrease in tram patronage is disappointing but understandable given that it reflects the withdrawal of the NCT bus /tram ticket due to national competition guidelines, challenging times economically, and significant competition between the city’s public transport operators.

I am however confident that an expanded tram network offering quick reliable services which serve further large parts of the conurbation including Clifton and Beeston, key

employment sites, the region's largest hospital, and all three of the city's junctions on the M1 will be an attractive offer providing an excellent public transport mix.

Unfortunately national legislation doesn't easily allow for public transport regulation or 'oyster style' integrated transport ticketing outside of London, but we are committed to work with the City Council and local transport operators to improve the Kangaroo card which allows travel on trains, buses and trams in the greater Nottingham area so that it can become an electronic 'smart' card to supplement other ticketing arrangements."

Question to the Chairman of Transport & Highways Committee from Councillor Tom Hollis

"Will the Chairman please inform me of any progress he has made in relation to the parking issues at the entrance of Mill Lane, Huthwaite with its junction with Common Road, since he has been in post?"

Response from Councillor Kevin Greaves, Chairman of Transport & Highways Committee

"A petition was presented by Councillor Fiona Asbury to the County Council meeting on 20th September 2012 requesting parking restrictions at the junction of the B6027 Common Road and Mill Lane, Huthwaite due to business parking from premises on Common Road causing obstruction at this location.

There had been no previous record of complaints regarding this issue at this junction. The accident record shows there has been only one accident over the last 5 years but this did not cite parking as a contributing factor.

Discussions were held with Councillor Asbury, residents and businesses but no conclusion was reached.

I have asked officers to discuss with Councillor Tom Hollis, residents and businesses to establish the extent of any possible parking restrictions or whether there is alternative business car parking that could be provided. If the introduction of double yellow lines is the best solution then public consultation will be undertaken over the next few months and the petitioners informed accordingly."

Question to the Chairman of Transport & Highways Committee from Councillor Philip Owen

"Following the utter confusion on 6th June when he moved but then had to defer, a committee report on bus lane enforcement, would the Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee reassure residents of the Horsendale Estate that they will continue to be exempt from penalties for using the Nuthall Bus Gate?"

Response from Councillor Kevin Greaves, Chairman of Transport & Highways Committee

“This matter was unusually raised through an amendment motion considered by Council at its meeting in April 2013. Whilst I did consider it an appropriate matter for Transport and Highways Committee to determine concerns were raised at the Committee meeting on 6th June regarding the phrasing of the amendment motion and so the matter was deferred for further legal advice.”