

# Report



meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 21 October 2010

agenda item number 7(a) i

## Leader's Report 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010

### 1. Big Budget Conversation

- 1.1 Members are aware that on 1<sup>st</sup> September Nottinghamshire County Council launched the Big Budget Conversation, the initial phase of its budget consultation. This includes an online budget simulator giving the public an opportunity to see the financial challenges facing this authority and to set and submit their own suggested budget. Residents can also complete response forms at their local library or run their own budget discussion event and present feedback.
- 1.2 Nottinghamshire County Council's costs are going up, the demand for our services for vulnerable children and adults is going up and the amount of money we receive from the Government is going down. Tough choices lie ahead and every response we receive will be taken into account by the Cabinet as we prepare our final budget proposals. The Big Budget Conversation runs until 31<sup>st</sup> December.

### 2. Primary partners

- 2.1 I stated in my first Leader's report to Council that one of my key priorities is to establish a strong working relationship with the borough and district councils within Nottinghamshire as our primary partners. I am pleased to say I have continued to hold meetings with the Leaders and Chief Executives of these councils, the latest of which have been with Broxtowe Borough Council and Gedling Borough Council during September.

### 3. Becket School

- 3.1 Nottinghamshire County Council has worked closely with the Becket School throughout the process of establishing their new site on The Becket Way off Wilford Lane in West Bridgford. Earlier this year I was pleased to attend the Formal Blessing and Grand Opening of the new building, celebrated by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Nottingham, the Right Reverend Malcolm McMahon.

3.2 On 21<sup>st</sup> September I was pleased to follow up that formal visit by taking a more informal guided tour of the new school in the company of the Headteacher, Tony Glover. I had the opportunity to meet pupils and teachers and quickly formed the impression of a school with an excellent ethos and a great sense of purpose. Children were clearly enjoying their education and valued their new facilities.

#### 4. **Nottinghamshire's Best Business Awards 2010**

4.1 On 24<sup>th</sup> September I was pleased to attend the Nottinghamshire's Best Business Awards 2010 at Colwick Hall Hotel as a guest of the Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce.

4.2 The main award for Best Business in Nottinghamshire was won by Nottingham life sciences business incubator BioCity, based on Pennyfoot Street in Nottingham. BioCity is home to 70 businesses employing more than 500 people. It started out as a joint venture involving both of Nottingham's universities with the support of local authorities and the East Midlands Development Agency, but has now grown into a self-financing operation with a £3 million turnover. BioCity houses leading edge commercial life sciences within 129,000 square feet of laboratories and offices.

4.3 Other category award winners on the evening were:-

*Most Promising New Business* - Cherry Professional, a Beeston-based financial recruitment company which has won exclusive new business and is competing on a level playing field with established players;

*Excellence in Customer Service* – PerCurra, of Lady Bay, which delivers professional support services to vulnerable individuals and care services to people in their own homes;

*Green Award* - Worksop-based MBA Polymers UK, for its innovative approach to recovering plastics from recycled vehicles, consumer appliances and other end-of-life durable sources, which are then used in the construction, electronics, appliances and automotive sectors

*Excellence in People Development* - Rumbles Catering Project, based at Vicar Water Country Park in Clipstone, a training provider for people with learning disabilities which enables its employees to gain skills and experience in a work environment and promotes independent living and personal development.

*Achievement in International Business* - Bingham-based 'betterlanguages.com', a multilingual translation agency covering all major languages, which has secured significant new business in a number of export markets.

*Entrepreneur of the Year* - Dawn Edwards, who runs successful staff development training firm Challenge Consulting and also positively transformed the fortunes of Lambley Day Nursery

*Innovation Through Technology Award* - Nottingham-based law firm Freeth Cartwright, in recognition of their innovative Case Viewer system, which gives lawyers files at their fingertips in a tailored electronic working environment.

## **5. Civic Reception for 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of British Red Cross in Nottinghamshire**

- 5.1 On 30<sup>th</sup> September I was delighted to attend the Chairman's Civic Reception to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Red Cross in Nottinghamshire. Within the County, Nottinghamshire Red Cross provides a wide range of services including: -
- First aid cover and ambulance services at public and private events throughout the day
  - Active on-site support for Fire & Emergency on a 24-hour basis
  - Direct assistance – health and social care, day centres, loan of medical equipment, youth groups etc.
  - Refugee services to assist newcomers to the County
  - First aid training in the workplace, private and public sector
  - Humanitarian education in schools, to encourage volunteering in the community.
- 5.2 It was a fantastic evening which served to recognise and promote the wonderful work undertaken by staff and volunteers supporting the vulnerable in Nottinghamshire. I know the Chairman has since received a letter of thanks from the British Red Cross' Operations Director for Derbyshire, Cheshire & Nottinghamshire.

## **6. Osberton International Horse Trials**

- 6.1 Anybody who knows me will know how much I enjoyed attending the Osberton International Horse Trials near Worksop on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. It was a very successful event and I am informed that local bed and breakfast providers certainly benefited from the number of visitors, which is all good news for the local economy.

## **7. Newark Showground**

- 7.1 On 6<sup>th</sup> October I joined the Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council, Mick Burrows in Newark for a very positive meeting with the manager of the Newark Showground. We are very supportive of plans for the development of the Showground, as this is likely to bring positive economic benefit to Newark and the surrounding areas.

**8. Goose Fair Dinner at the Council House**

- 8.1 On 7<sup>th</sup> October I was pleased to attend the Goose Fair Dinner at the Council House in Nottingham. I believe the Goose Fair is an event and tradition which continues to be valued by residents of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire as well as attracting visitors from elsewhere.

**Councillor Kay Cutts**  
**Leader**