



meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2004

agenda item number

## REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

### 1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report updates Members on various key achievements and issues relating to my portfolio since my last report to Council. It also includes information about the Culture portfolio. The Constitution provides for the Leader to act where there is no Cabinet member, either through absence or vacancy. In the circumstances, my report is in two parts. The first (Appendix A) relates to my portfolio, whilst the second (Appendix B) is concerned with Culture.

1.2 Members will see that both reports describe activities which have contributed. In the case of Culture, many of those activities took place prior to 31 August.

**COUNCILLOR MICK WARNER**  
Leader of the County Council

## **APPENDIX A**

### **REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

#### **LEADER'S PORTFOLIO**

##### **1. Meetings internally and externally**

**1.1** I have been busy with regular Council business meetings relating mainly to Cabinet. Other meetings included routine meetings with the Chief Executive, Pensions Investment sub-Committee and Pensions annual meeting, Administration Committee, Broxtowe Members' Forum, County Hall Refurbishment Working Party, Broxtowe Partnership Board meeting and regular NET meetings.

##### **2. External meetings attended around the County:**

- ❑ Pilot Contact Centre's first birthday party, at Mansfield offices, Chadburn House;
- ❑ OnBoard 2004 graduation event, at Boughton Pumping Station, Ollerton;
- ❑ Visit to Creswell Crags;
- ❑ Youth Service Showcase event, at the Palace Theatre, Mansfield.

##### **3. Chairman of the County Council's coffee morning, for Macmillan Cancer Relief**

**3.1** The Chairman of the County Council supported the Macmillan biggest Coffee Morning.

**3.2** Many Members/officers and members of the general public joined the Chairman of the County Council, in the Civic Suite, for a cup of coffee and a piece of cake. All proceeds to the Nottinghamshire Macmillan Appeal.

##### **4. The Goose Fair Dinner 2004**

**4.1** I attended The Goose Fair Dinner 2004 – an annual event, held at the Council House in Nottingham.

**4.2** This prestigious event celebrated the opening of the 710<sup>th</sup> Goose Fair and was an opportunity for Nottingham City Council to thank the many people who contribute to the life, success and prosperity of our City.

## **5. Launch of the Anne Frank Exhibition**

- 5.1 The civic launch of the Anne Frank Exhibition was held at Southwell Minster, where everyone enjoyed a short programme of welcome and music followed by refreshments and an opportunity to look around the Exhibition.

## **6. 'Square One – Old Market Square Re-design'**

- 6.1 There was a design competition held earlier in the year when six teams were shortlisted from a very strong field of 62 entries from across the world. Gustafson Porter a UK/USA practice were unanimously chosen by the Evaluation Panel. Les Sparks with national and local design experts and three City Councillors sitting on it chaired the Panel.
- 6.2 The team has been working up the scheme and undertaking all the technical research as a prelude to discussions with key local stakeholders. Discussions have, also, been held with organisations that will prospectively help to fund the project – these have been productive.
- 6.3 At a recent event I attended it took the form of a series of workshops lasting about half an hour, each gave everyone a chance to talk to the designers directly, react to their proposals and give feedback from our perspective.

## **7. Routine meeting with East Midlands Development Agency (emda)**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive and myself hold six monthly meetings with various officers of emda where we discuss forthcoming projects and exchange various information.

## **8. Lunch with GMB**

- 8.1 Councillor John Carter and myself hosted a lunch for members of the GMB Union. Kevin Curran, the new General Secretary of the GMB was the main guest – held in the Civic Suite at County Hall.

## **9. Interview for East Midlands Today - held at Neville Sadler Court – regarding the TRAM**

- 9.1 Following this interview, I then attended (on a separate occasion) The Chilwell Comprehensive School, where Radio Nottingham broadcast a rather lively debate involving City Councillor John Taylor, Chair of the NET Development Board, Broxtowe MP Nick Palmer and myself.
- 9.2 The following day I attended BBC Radio Nottingham, where I listened to the actual broadcast, followed by answering emails from the general public.

**10. BBC Radio Nottingham Phone-in**

10.1 Appeared on a joint phone-in on BBC Radio Nottingham with Councillor Jon Collins from the City Council, where we were asked various questions from the general public.

**11. Child Migrants Trust**

11.1 I met with various Child Migrants from Australia together with Margaret Humphreys.

**12. County Councils Network (CCN) Council meeting**

12.1 Attended by Councillor The Hon. Joan Taylor and myself.

**13. Visitors from Poznan**

13.1 Councillor Chris Baron, Malcolm Matthews and myself met with a delegation from Poznan who visited Nottinghamshire County Council for the main purpose of attending the Robin Hood Marathon.

**14. Professor Scholes' visit**

14.1 Strategy Workshop – Managing Strategic Change and Stakeholder relationships, by Professor Kevan Scholes - held at Holme Pierrepont Water Sports Centre, Nottingham and attended by Cabinet Members, Corporate Management Board and Scrutiny Chairs.

**15. Routine meetings with Corporate Communications and the Nottingham Evening Post**

15.1 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.

**16. Newark and Sherwood District Council**

16.1 The Chief Executive and myself met with the Leader and Chief Executive of Newark and Sherwood District Council, where we discussed various forthcoming projects and exchanged various information.

**17. Interim Labour Group meeting**

17.1 Councillor Chris Baron was proposed by the Group for election as the new Cabinet Member for Culture and Community.

**18. 'Out and About' with the Chief Executive**

**18.1** The Chief Executive and myself visited All Hallows Church of England Primary School, in Gedling and New Manton Primary School (Worksop area).

**19. Receptions**

- Civic reception to celebrate 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nottinghamshire Federation of Townswomen's Guilds – held in the Assembly Hall, at County Hall;
- Chairman's luncheon, to mark the retirement of the Bishop of Sherwood – held in the Civic Suite, at County Hall;
- 'A bit of a do' – Chairman's Charity evening – held in the Assembly Hall, at County Hall;
- Luncheon for recipients, who received an award in the Queen's Birthday Honours List – held in the Civic Suite.

**20. Young Potential**

**20.1** I have spent a fair amount of my own, personal, time supporting my charity.

My door is always open for colleagues to voice any queries/concerns they may have.

## APPENDIX B

### CULTURE PORTFOLIO

#### **Tourism and Country Parks**

##### 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Robin Hood Festival

1. The Robin Hood Festival, which took place at Sherwood Forest Country Park & Visitor Centre from 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> August, celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year and, thanks to financial sponsorship from Hardys & Hansons, was the biggest Festival yet. The event received excellent publicity in local newspapers and was also covered by several local radio stations as well as Central and Yorkshire Television.
2. The festival attracted more visitors than ever, with an estimated 75,000 people attending over the seven days compared with to 64,000 in 2003. Once again it proved to be an extremely popular event, and several complimentary letters, cards and e-mails have been received from both members of the public and county council employees. Plans are already in hand for next year, which will be taking place from 1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> August.

##### Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre

3. The final report on the feasibility study undertaken by Lathams Architects into potential sites for a re-located visitor centre has now been received.
4. The study highlights a need for a visitor facility in close proximity to the boundary of the National Nature Reserve. Furthermore, the study suggests that the opportunity to relocate the visitor centre be viewed as an important regenerator for the sub-region.
5. Although a number of alternative sites are identified in the report, two are seen as worthy of further evaluation and consultation. Both sites are close to the village of Edwinstowe and offer excellent prospects in terms of maintaining the present visitor levels to Sherwood Forest Country Park and in providing additional facilities to the village. These facilities could include a local transport hub.

##### Rufford Mill

6. Following a successful application to the Alliance SSP in January 2004, the condition survey of the mill buildings, together with a feasibility study into their possible future conversion to a catering outlet and community arts space, was undertaken by architects William Saunders. A report on their findings has now been received.
7. The structure of this listed building has been found to be in relatively good condition and offers a number of possibilities for sustainable use.

8. Bringing the buildings into a state of better repair and full public access is seen as a priority. Pursuing external funding in order to deliver this project will prove to be a challenge.

### Tudor Times

9. Rufford Country Park will be the venue for an historical re-enactment featuring the late Tudor period over the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> September. The event follows on from the successful Civil War weekends held at the country park which proved to be extremely popular with visitors and will focus on a different period of Rufford's long and varied history.
10. As well as the two public days, there was a special schools day on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> September when children from the north of the county had the chance to take part in a series of activities ranging from music, dance and period games such as stoolball and skittles. There was also be demonstrations featuring archery and sword fighting as well as authentic food preparation.

### **Sport**

#### Sport Direct to Continue

11. Sport Direct was established in 2002 to proactively provide equal opportunities and break down barriers for disabled people in the sports industry. Sport Direct aims to increase the skills and employability of disabled people through sports coach education and development. The initial project support 63 disabled people with 57 completing the project. In 2 years 237 qualifications were achieved and 27 beneficiaries completed a work placement. Through the project 13 beneficiaries gained employment and 26 have gone onto volunteer or onto a further education or other training programme. The project funding finished in March 2004. Gap Funding was supplied by Culture and Community Services Learning Skills and Employment to enable a period of planning. The project has now been informed that they have been successful in securing funding of £87979 from European Social Fund Co-financing via the Learning and Skills Council along with other funding partners. The project aims to support 88 disabled people through training and development opportunities in sport.

#### Community Sports Coaches Scheme

12. The Sports Service has been successful in an application to the Active England Fund for £193592 for a project to create full time peripatetic sports coaching positions deployed across the county. This award is part of over £400K of external funding already sourced from a variety of agencies in the public and voluntary sectors. The programme will create six full time Community Sports Coach positions who will each contribute to making a step change in the introductory experience of sport offered to young people in the county.
13. The first 'steps' into sport are the most important. The scheme will have widespread impact across the whole county and reach people in deprived communities, in the heart of their communities, by creating exciting

opportunities in new and existing settings. By cascading the influence of these Coaches we aim to revolutionise how sport is introduced to young people in our county. It is anticipated that each coach delivering on average 1200 coaching hours each year giving each coaching position the potential to impact on 14000 young people each year. A large number of young people (252000 over three years) will be reached, young people from under participating groups will be targeted and they will be given a positive and creative introduction to sport and prepared for a life of participation.

### **Youth Games Flying High**

14. The Sports Service managed the sixth annual Nottinghamshire Youth Games. The Games were the largest youth sport event ever seen in the county and were this year spread over four days and seven venues. For the first time in the history of the Games, Mansfield hosted the final day of competition that traditionally sees the majority of the sports contested.
15. Nearly 2000 young people representing the eight areas of Nottinghamshire took part in the county finals that were the culmination of months of sports development work across the County. The Games are used as a vehicle to develop sports clubs, sports coaches and young volunteers. In total nearly 7000 children participated in local trials, festivals and coaching programmes supported by local authorities, county governing bodies of sport and schools across the county.

### **Young People**

#### **U- Project for School Leavers**

16. Over the course of the summer, the Young People's Division has provided opportunities for young school leavers to consider their future work, training or employment options. The opportunities have come about through the U-Project scheme, which is a Government funded programme of week-long projects aimed at young people who are uncertain about their next steps after school. The Young People's Division works with the County's schools and the Connexions Service to recruit young people to a wide range of projects, which use a variety of activities, themes and settings to help young people explore their future. In all, over 30 schemes were organised with 300 young people attending. The majority of the participants will receive an accredited award as a result of the work they undertook during the week and they will receive these at a presentation event at County Hall on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2004.

#### **Anne Frank Exhibition**

17. The Anne Frank Exhibition will be held in Southwell Minster between the 4<sup>th</sup> October and 5<sup>th</sup> November 2004. The free exhibition tells the story of Anne Frank and her family, documenting the family's persecution by the Nazis, their hiding in Amsterdam and their ultimate fate in the death camps. The Young People's Division has been working with young people across the county to raise awareness of the issues related to Anne's story and to engage young people in discussions, debate and activities, leading up to a visit to the exhibition. So far over 25 groups have signed up to visit the exhibition and they are currently using a tailor made curriculum pack to ensure that they are



prepared for their experience. Some young people have been trained as peer mentors and will deliver sessions to other young people to help them get the most out of the exhibition. At the same time, a group from the Bassetlaw Youth Theatre has devised a drama workshop which will be presented in each of the seven districts, to raise awareness of the exhibition.

### **Libraries, Archives and Information**

#### **Alan Ball Awards for Local History**

18. Nottinghamshire Libraries, as part of a partnership of neighbouring authorities, has won this prestigious national award for local history publications. The unusual aspect of the award this year is that the partnership submission was for the web-based 'Picture the Past' project, which is providing digitised images of local heritage subjects in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. The Alan Ball Awards, sponsored by the Libraries Trust, has supported awards for printed publications for many years. However, in recognition of the impact of technology on opening up access to local heritage materials, a new category of award was created this year. There was a considerable response from library authorities across the UK so it was especially pleasing to receive the award for 'Picture the Past'. Images can be viewed at [www.picturethepast.org.uk](http://www.picturethepast.org.uk).

#### **'Lawrence in Notts'**

19. On Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> September a newly created website and supporting leaflet to promote resources relating to D.H. Lawrence was launched at the Lakeside Arts Centre at the University of Nottingham. The website [www.lawrenceinnotts.org.uk](http://www.lawrenceinnotts.org.uk) is the first collaborative venture by libraries, archives and museums within the county and city and has received financial support from the East Midlands Museums Libraries and Archives Council (EMMLAC).
20. The simple aim of the project has been to bring together in one information source all the different resources that exist relating to D.H. Lawrence and his life. Collections are based in County and City Libraries, in the County Archives, at the University of Nottingham, Broxtowe Borough Council's Durban House and Lawrence Birthplace Museum, and there are links to the D.H. Lawrence Society and Hags Farm Preservation Society.
21. Prominent D.H. Lawrence scholar and author, Professor John Worthen, delivered a special lecture at the launch which also involved Dr Tim Hobbs (Chief Executive of EMMLAC).

#### **Summer Activities for Children**

22. Early indications show that the annual summer activities programme and national reading challenge for children has been a great success. Participation levels will be reported when the full analysis has been completed.
23. The title of this year's National Reading Challenge in Libraries was 'The Reading Rollercoaster' and it proved to be a real attraction! The Collector folder which each child received stated 'Get on board the awesome Reading

Rollercoaster' and was for the child to keep tabs on all the best books they read for the Rollercoaster challenge. Ride tips encouraged children to get family and friends to pay more attention to them during the challenge.

24. Throughout the summer Councillor Nellie Smedley, Chairman of the County Council, Councillor Alan Davison, Vice-Chairman, and Mick Burrows, Director of Culture and Community Services, popped in to sessions, and participated to good effect.
25. During the lead up to the holidays, Education and Culture and Community Departments, through schools, public libraries and the Education Library Service promoted the extravaganza using the 'Reading can change lives' initiative involving Jacqueline Wilson, children's author, and local TV and sport personalities - many thanks to them.
26. The aim of the promotion is to encourage children to have fun and begin or maintain their reading throughout the summer. Evidence is now emerging that children have re-engaged in reading.
27. In addition to reading and book based events, there were many other opportunities to 'join in the summer fun'. Creative activities for children, storytelling and various performances were all on offer.

#### **Archives Lunchtime talks**

28. October sees Nottinghamshire Archives embark upon its autumn series of lunchtime talks. The series launches phase 3 of the Access to Archives project which adds catalogues of collections on the theme of "Home and Abroad" to this national website ([www.a2a.org.uk](http://www.a2a.org.uk)). The talks also form part of Nottinghamshire Archives contribution to this years Archives Awareness campaign. The series will highlight Nottinghamshire's connections with distant lands
29. The first talk by Senior Archivist, Chris Weir on "Thoughts from the Battlefields of World War I" was held on Wednesday 6 October. Future talks will be held fortnightly on: "Far and Away: Nottinghamshire Emigrants to the New World"; "First Impressions: New Lives in the East Midlands"; and "Pioneers of Invention: Nottinghamshire Business Abroad."