

meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 22 July 2010

agenda item number **7a i.**

## REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

### Nottinghamshire County Council Annual Service of Dedication held at Southwell Minster, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2010

1. On a sunny afternoon I attended the Annual NCC Service of Dedication held at Southwell Minster. It was attended by approximately 300 invited guests comprising Civic Heads in the county and Members and Officers of the county, borough, district, parish and town councils. Also in attendance were Past Chairmen of the County Council, members of the Judiciary and members of the Minster congregation.
2. It was a very thought provoking service with a welcome by the Dean which highlighted a few prominent events during the last year and also the recent Parliamentary elections. His sermon touched the right notes and he even managed to slip in the score of the England game (which at that time was England 0 Germany 0, but it got worse!).
3. The Civic Office organised the service with personal input from the Chairman whose Fire Fighters' Charity was involved. A ceremonial guard of honour from the Notts Fire Service led the procession into the Minster. The two readers this year were a retained firefighter, Tim Spriddell from Southwell Fire Station and Olivia Jevons, a member of the Nottinghamshire Young People's Theatre Company. The Nottinghamshire Young People's Concert Band, conducted by David Ince, played the music during the service and soloist Nathan Curzon played the flute, which was an absolute delight to listen to, concluding with a marvellous performance by the organist.

### New Assistant Chief Constable

4. On 1<sup>st</sup> July I had a very constructive meeting with Paul Scarrott, who recently joined Nottinghamshire Police as the new Assistant Chief Constable (Local Policing & Citizen Focus). Mr Scarrott previously served with the West Midlands force where he was a unit Commander for seven years.

5. Mr Scarrott's local policing and citizen focus brief will necessitate regular and ongoing dialogue with our Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Councillor Mick Murphy. I assured the Assistant Chief Constable that he would have the full backing of Nottinghamshire County Council members, provided that Nottinghamshire Police continue their efforts to improve. During our discussion I placed particular emphasis on the need to tackle anti-social behaviour hotspots and devise new and innovative ways to combat crime.

### **Nottingham Post Business Awards 2010**

6. On 1<sup>st</sup> July I was delighted to attend the Nottingham Post Business Awards at the Council House in Nottingham. Nottinghamshire County Council is committed to creating an environment in which business can thrive.
7. The top award for Nottinghamshire Company of the Year, sponsored by Nottinghamshire County Council and KPMG, went to Bunches Florapost, a flowers-by-post firm based in Newstead Village. This business has been building for more than 20 years and now boasts turnover in excess of £6 million a year.
8. The Small Business of the Year winner was Prime Principle, a company whose online 'Classroom Monitor' programme helps teachers spend more time on teaching and less on paperwork.
9. Young Business Person of the Year was James Smith, founder and Managing Director of Tuxford-based T&S Group, who originally concentrated on electrical services for the retail sector. T & S anticipated and countered the effects of the recession by diversifying into designing, making and installing security metalwork. The company also performs mechanical engineering work for construction firms and makes furniture for schools, hospitals, leisure centres and secure accommodation. This expansion has seen the firm boost its workforce beyond the 100 mark.
10. Nottingham-based Software provider Aware Monitoring won the New Enterprise of the Year award. It launched its first products in December last year and has already won contracts from some of the UK's top web application providers.
11. Aerial photography specialists Upper Cut Productions won the Business Innovation award, while auctioneers and valuers John Pye & Sons won the Best Use of IT and Communications award for their in-house development of a programme which enables staff to work faster and smarter to keep track of millions of items and transactions.

### **Presentation of The Elizabeth Cross & Memorial Scroll**

12. On 2<sup>nd</sup> July I was proud to attend a ceremony in the Civic Suite to see The Elizabeth Cross & Memorial Scroll presented to the next of kin of three local Armed Forces personnel who died on operations or as a result of terrorism. It is not a posthumous medal for the fallen but an emblem for Service families, demonstrating tangible national recognition of their loss.
13. The fallen recipients were Acting Sergeant Neil Wykes, who died, aged 22, in action in Korea in September 1952; Lance Bombardier Stephen Restorick, age 23, killed in Northern Ireland in February 1997 and Drummer Thomas Wright of the Worcestershire & Sherwood Foresters Regiment, who died, aged 21, in Afghanistan in June 2007.
14. The presentation was made by Sir Andrew Buchanan Bt, the Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire.

### **Local Government Association Group Conference & Exhibition**

15. On 6<sup>th</sup> July I attended the Local Government Association Group Conference & Exhibition at the Bournemouth International Centre.
16. This annual event brings together approximately 2,000 of the leading players in councils, central government, partners and business. Under the heading 'Changing Times, Changing Minds', this year's conference was split into three themed days built around topics that the LGA Group considered key to member authorities and the sector, namely 'Reputation', 'The Economy' and 'Place'. Plenary, workshop and fringe sessions related to each day's theme and there was an opportunity to hear from various speakers.
17. During my visit I listened to a presentation by the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government, The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, and attended various other workshops.

**County Councillor Kay Cutts  
Council Leader**