



meeting **County Council**

date 16 December 2004

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1** This report seeks to update Members on various key achievements and issues relating to my portfolio since my last report to Council. A wide range of activities has taken place contributing to the strategic objectives of the Authority.

2. Meetings internally and externally

- 2.1** I have been busy with regular Council business meetings relating mainly to Cabinet. Other meetings included:
- Routine meetings with the Chief Executive;
 - East Midlands County Leaders' and Chief Executives' meeting (hosted by Nottinghamshire County Council);
 - East Midlands Regional Assembly Policy Board meeting;
 - NET lead Members/officers' meeting;
 - NET Development Board meeting;
 - Routine meeting between Leaders and Chief Executives of Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council;
 - East Midlands Regional Local Government Association (EMRLGA) General meeting;
 - East Midlands Assembly meeting;
 - Greater Nottingham Partnership (GNP) Board meeting;
 - Greater Nottingham Partnership (GNP) Partnership meeting;
 - Meeting with Sport England;
 - Prize-giving event at Broxtowe College;
 - Special meeting of the Nottinghamshire Local Authorities' Association – hosted by Nottinghamshire County Council, here, at County Hall;
 - Administration Committee.

3. Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Inspection

- 3.1 The Council's CPA rating is due to be announced in mid December. The service scores for the council are expected to trigger a reclassification to 'excellent' which we have been aiming to achieve since our first 'good' rating in 2002. Our score for cultural services, which fell from 3 to 2 last year, has risen to 3 again following the Service Inspection earlier this year. We expect to retain our service scores in other service blocks.
- 3.2 To get the 'excellent' rating we also have to demonstrate significant progress in terms of our corporate ability score. The Audit Commission Inspection team visited the County Council from the 15th to the 19th of November and have gathered a lot of evidence to support their conclusions.

I met with one of the inspectors to talk about our progress and I was pleased to meet the whole team to receive their feedback on 19th November.

- 3.3 The Comprehensive Performance Assessment has its faults but it is undoubtedly a very thorough and detailed way of assessing and comparing performance. I believe that this council has made very significant progress over the last two years. This is due to the dedication and effort of our staff – from staff on the front line through to our most senior managers. It is also due to the dedication and focus of councillors of all Parties. If we are awarded 'excellence', I offer my sincere thanks to everyone who has played their part.

4. Celebration of Cultural Inspection

- 4.1 I was delighted to attend this special event hosted by Mick Burrows, Director of Culture and Community, which celebrated the results of the Cultural Services inspection which the Audit Commission scored as 'good with excellent prospects for improvement'; this is a tremendous achievement in which we all share. Not only does this reflect on the quality of these services but also contributes to the County Council achieving excellence in the Government's Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA).
- 4.2 It appears that our result is the best in the country and this is a tribute to the hard work and support which has built up these services over many years. I would like to thank staff, colleagues from all parties and in particular Councillor Colin Bromfield for championing Cultural Services in Nottinghamshire.

5. Fourth UK Poland Local Government Conference 2004

- 5.1 Nottinghamshire County Council was chosen by the Local Government International Bureau (LGIB) to host a national conference focusing on UK and Polish partnerships.
- 5.2 The Conference 'Co-operation within an enlarged Europe' – 50 delegates from local councils from across Poland and UK attended the Conference, this being the fourth annual UK Poland Conference, but the first since Poland joined the European Union.
The event was organized and funded by the Local Government International Bureau who act as the European and International arm of the Local Government Association (LGA) and promote European and International partnerships between local authorities.
- 5.3 The purpose of the Conference was to look at effective partnership activities involving the community, businesses, universities and voluntary groups as well as local authorities themselves. It also focused on improving the delivery of local government services and local democratic structures in both the UK and Poland.

6. **Beacon Open Day**

- 6.1 Nottinghamshire County Council was presented with a Beacon Award, earlier this year, for its work on 'Services for Older People.' As part of the Beacon Award Scheme, the County Council shared its best practice with other local authorities at a Beacon Open Day, which was held, here, at County Hall.

7. **Presentation of bikes – Public Roadshows**

- 7.1 At the Public Roadshows members of the public were asked to complete an Evaluation Form, they were then entered into a prize draw. The winners were picked, at random, by a representative from Raleigh.
- 7.2 A Presentation took place in the Civic Suite, at County Hall, where the winners were presented with a bike, which were donated by Raleigh and a representative from Raleigh was, also, present at the presentation event.

8. **Freedom of Information Act Seminar**

- 8.1 This Seminar was held, for all Members of the County Council, informing them about the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) which will have a significant effect on the County Council from the 1st January 2005.

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

- 9.1 The Deputy Leader and myself 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.

10. I have spent a fair amount of my own, personal, time supporting my charity.
11. **Receptions**
 - Great Nottinghamshire Bike Ride Presentations;
 - BBC East Midlands Sports Awards 2004 – held at Nottingham City Council, at the Council House – dinner followed by Awards Ceremony.
12. **Chairman’s Christmas Toy Appeal – ‘Toy Run’**
 - 12.1 Another successful year – thousands of bikers descended on Nottingham to parade through the city’s streets bearing Christmas gifts for needy children/children from underprivileged backgrounds. The riders were greeted at County Hall by a Salvation Army band.
13. My door is always open for colleagues to voice any queries/concerns they may have.

COUNCILLOR MICK WARNER
Leader of the County Council