

meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 9 December 2010

agenda item number **7a i.**

## REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

### Joint County/City Leaders' Meeting

1. On 29<sup>th</sup> October I attended a joint meeting of the Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council Leaders and Chief Executives at the City Council's Loxley House offices. Discussion focused on the development of the new Local Enterprise Partnership and action points included seeking business nominations for the LEP Shadow Board.

### Youth Parliament

2. Also on 29<sup>th</sup> October I had the opportunity to meet newly-elected Nottinghamshire members of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament at County Hall. We now have eight UKMYPs, seven representing a district/borough area and the eighth representing disabled young people.
3. Elections were organised by Nottinghamshire County Council in partnership with the United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) and supported by Nottinghamshire Scouts. Young people were able to vote in their local election at schools, at young people's centres, on the County Council's youth mobile service or online at the Nottinghamshire Scout website. More than 15,000 votes were received in total.
4. The Youth Parliament works to ensure that young people between the ages of 11 and 18 are given an opportunity to be involved in the democratic process at local and national level and have a voice on issues that affect them. The Youth Parliament does not seek to represent party political views.

### **Children's Centres Civic Reception**

5. On 4<sup>th</sup> November I was pleased to attend a civic reception hosted by the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People's Services, Councillor Philip Owen and the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Thomas Pettengell to celebrate the completion of the portfolio of 58 Children's Centres across Nottinghamshire.
6. Each Children's Centre sent a parent representative along with a member of the Children's Centre team. Also in attendance were colleagues, partners and leadership staff from Children's Centres, elected members and senior officers of Nottinghamshire County Council.
7. The event was opened by the Corporate Director of Children & Young People's Services, Anthony May. A fuller account is included in the report of the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People's Services.

### **Visit to The Hardstaff Group**

8. On 5<sup>th</sup> November I visited the offices of the The Hardstaff Group in Kingston-on-Soar, a local fifth-generation family business providing jobs for local people in a rural setting. Hardstaffs enjoys a growing reputation as a provider of leading edge dual-fuel technology to both the global and UK road transport industry. This was one of series of visits I am making to Nottinghamshire-based businesses - large and small, national and local - to exchange ideas and discuss the facilitation of economic growth.

### **Education / Local Government Improvement & Development Seminar**

9. On 17<sup>th</sup> November I travelled to the Central Hall in Westminster, London with the Chief Executive, Mick Burrows and the Corporate Director for Children & Young People, Anthony May to attend a Joint Department for Education and Local Government Improvement and Development seminar. This included a speech from Tim Loughton MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children & Families, outlining the Government's vision for greater decentralisation and localism.

### **Tour of Boots**

10. Upon returning from London on 17<sup>th</sup> November I joined the Chief Executive, Cabinet Members and other senior officers in visiting the Alliance Boots headquarters. Alliance Boots was represented by Alex Gourlay, Chief Executive of the Health and Beauty Division; Toon

Clerckx, the Boots UK Director of Finance and Andy Godfrey, Public Policy Manager.

11. As stated earlier in my report, I am visiting a range of businesses and Alliance Boots was contacted as one of the County's major employers with a significant impact on the local economy. It was an opportunity to discuss plans for expansion at their Beeston site, our mutual priorities for investment such as the A453 and their participation in the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

### **Safer Nottinghamshire Board**

12. On 19<sup>th</sup> November I attended the latest meeting of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board in the Rufford Suite at County Hall. Items on the agenda included updates on the Nottinghamshire Alcohol Strategy, the Children's Social Care Safeguarding Improvement Programme and a presentation on Serious Acquisitive Crime in Nottinghamshire.

### **Nottingham Prison**

13. Later on 19<sup>th</sup> November I joined the Chief Executive for a visit to Her Majesty's Prison Nottingham, where we met the governor, Peter Wright and took a tour of the prison including its newly built facilities.

### **County Councils Network (CCN) Conference**

14. On 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> November I joined the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Martin Suthers and the Chief Executive at the CCN Annual Conference, which this year was hosted by West Sussex County Council at the Crowne Plaza Gatwick-Crawley Hotel.
15. I had the opportunity to speak with the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government, the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP and was present for the keynote speech by his Parliamentary Private Secretary, Stephen Hammond MP.
16. Other sessions I was able to attend included a presentation on the Spending Review 2010 by Tony Travers, Director of the London School of Economics Greater London Group; a seminar by Ben Page, Chief Executive of Ipsos MORI entitled 'Spending Review, Coalition and Big Society'; a presentation on pensions and the future of the Local Government Pension Scheme by John Wright, the Head of Public Sector Consulting for Hymans Robertson; a presentation on the future for rural communities & economies by Dr Stuart Burgess of the Commission for Rural Communities; and a session on 'Localism in Action' by Justin Griggs of the National Association of Local Councils.

17. As always, the CCN Annual Conference provided an excellent opportunity to meet local government colleagues from across the country and exchange ideas and examples of best practice.

### **Meeting with Rushcliffe Borough Council**

18. On 25<sup>th</sup> November, as part of my ongoing dialogue with our borough and district council partners, I was pleased to meet with the Leader and Chief Executive of Rushcliffe Borough Council. Discussion points included concerns over the A453 and a number of other local issues.

### **Local Government Leaders' Group**

19. On 26<sup>th</sup> November I attended a Local Government Leaders' Group meeting at the offices of Ashfield District Council. Items under discussion included Nottinghamshire's Safeguarding [Children] Improvement Programme, where partners were updated on progress so far in response to the urgent actions set out in the Ofsted inspection reports and the Improvement Notice.
20. We also discussed a range of transportation issues affecting the county and received a verbal update on policing issues from the Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire, Julia Hodson.

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