



meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 29TH JUNE 2006

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Purpose of the Report

This report covers some of my key activities as Leader since the last County Council meeting during May and June.

Meetings between Leaders and Chief Executives of Nottinghamshire County Council and Districts

The Chief Executive and I met with the Leader and Acting Chief Executive of Bassetlaw District Council, also, the Executive Mayor and Managing Director of Mansfield District Council and the Leader and Chief Executive of Rushcliffe Borough Council.

Meetings with District Councils are ongoing, so would be happy to hear from other Members about major items that might be raised in these meetings.

Meetings attended with Chief Executive:

- **Out and About visit to the Dukeries Community College, in Ollerton – we were given a tour of the Dukeries followed by lunch.**
- **East Midlands Leaders' and Chief Executives' meeting.**
- **Developing Nottinghamshire Leadership Group.**

Other regular meetings attended:

- NET Development Board meeting;
- NET lead Members'/officers' meeting.

Nottinghamshire Partnership meeting

I attended the third meeting of the Nottinghamshire Partnership which was held on Friday 9th June 2006 at Southwell Racecourse. The meeting included a session on the new neighbourhood policing agenda with a presentation from Chief Inspector Simon Nickless. Partners then identified ways in which they could help make it a success. There were also update sessions on health restructuring, the Community Strategy Delivery Plan and the Local Area Agreement including its delivery plans and governance arrangements. The meeting concluded with a powerful presentation by Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) Strategic Director, Kate Davies on the work of the DAAT in

tackling drug addiction and its related problems with acquisitive crime. This showed how partnership work can make a real impact on the ground in our local communities.

Great Nottinghamshire Bike Ride 2006

I actually took part in the 18 miles so I shall report back on how I got on at County Council.

Video for Older People's Advisory Group

I, recently, took part in a video for the Older People's Advisory Group. The purpose of the video is to raise awareness of what Nottinghamshire OPAG does and uses the experiences of the Group to show case how older people working within Governance can make a difference locally, regionally and nationally.

The video, also, involved interviews with:

- Nottinghamshire OPAG members;
- Councillor Dick Anthony;
- Councillor The Hon Joan Taylor;
- Representatives from:
 - African Caribbean Elders;
 - Stapleford Resource Centre;
 - Selston Shoppers Bus;
 - Minister for Work and Pensions;
 - BGOP Director, UK Chair of OPAG;
 - Interviews with County Council officers.

Routine meetings with Corporate Communications and the Nottingham Evening Post

The Deputy Leader and I 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.

Continue to hold fortnightly Communication Portfolio meetings with Deputy Leader and officers.

Leadership challenges facing local government event

A two-day seminar, looking at possible proposals in the forthcoming Government White Paper on Local Government and the Sir Michael Lyons enquiry.

County Council Receptions hosted by the Chairman of the County Council

- Attended a Civic luncheon which was hosted by the Chairman Designate of the County Council for everyone who was involved, including Members and officers, in the success of the LGC e-Government Award for Home Care's InfoCare Scheme.

This was a national award for Home Care's InfoCare Scheme. The pioneering information system won top honours in the e-Government category of the Local Government Chronicle awards, which were presented at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane in London.

Using smartcard technology, the InfoCare system allows care assistants to electronically record all the tasks carried out in the homes of service users through a unit plugged into the service user's telephone point. The information is transmitted back to a central system, where it is used for billing and monitoring levels of care. There are safety features too, as the unit automatically checks the room temperature and alerts a central contact point if there is a dramatic fluctuation indicating either hypothermia or fire. It also alerts managers if a care assistant fails to turn up for a scheduled visit.

The result has been a vast reduction in paperwork and more time for staff to deliver quality services.

Please feel free to contact me with ideas/proposals/issues at any time.

COUNCILLOR DAVID KIRKHAM
Leader of the County Council