

Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 30th June 2011 (10.00 am – 8.48 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

COUNCILLORS

Keith Walker (Chairman)

Carol Pepper (Vice Chairman)

	Reg Adair		Keith Longdon
	John Allin	A	Rachel Madden
	Fiona Asbury		Geoff Merry
	Chris Barnfather		Mick Murphy
	Victor Bobo		Philip Owen
	Joyce Bosnjak		Thomas A J Pettengell
	Richard Butler		Sheila Place
A	Steve Carr		Darrell Pulk
	Steve Carroll		Mike Quigley MBE
	Allen Clarke		Mrs Wendy Quigley
	Ged Clarke		Alan Rhodes
	John Clarke	A	Ken Rigby
	L B Cooper		Kevin Rostance
	John Cottee		Mrs Sue Saddington
	Michael J Cox		Mel Shepherd MBE
	Jim Creamer		S Smedley MBE JP
	Bob Cross		Mark Spencer MP
	Mrs Kay Cutts		June Stendall
	V H Dobson		Andy Stewart
	Sybil Fielding		Martin Suthers OBE
	Stephen Garner		Lynn Sykes
A	Michelle Gent		David Taylor
	Glynn Gilfoyle		Parry Tsimbiridis
	Keith Girling		Gail Turner
	Kevin Greaves		Stuart Wallace
	John M Hemsall	A	Les Ward
	Stan Heptinstall MBE		Gordon Wheeler
	Rev. Tom Irvine		Chris Winterton
	Richard Jackson		Brian Wombwell
	Rod Kempster		Martin Wright
	Eric Kerry		Liz Yates
	John Knight	A	Jason Zadrozny
	Bruce Laughton		

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Hon. Alderman Terry Butler
Hon. Alderman John Carter

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mick Burrows	(Chief Executive)
Jayne Francis-Ward	(Assistant Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer)
David Pearson	(Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection)
Steve Edwards	(Children, Families & Cultural Services)
Tim Gregory	(Environment & Resources)
Paul Simpson	(Environment & Resources)
Sara Allmond	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Carl Bilbey	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Claire Dixon	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Martin Done (part)	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Chris Holmes	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Marie Lewis (part)	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Lyndsey Parnell	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Daniel Roberts	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)

OPENING PRAYER

Upon the Council convening, prayers were led by the Chairman's Chaplain.

Members stood in silence in memory of Lance Corporal Martin Gill, of Carlton from the 42 Commando Royal Marines who was killed on 5th June 2011 whilst on patrol in the Helmand province, Afganistan and Private Gareth Bellingham of the Mercian Regiment who was killed on 18th June 2011 whilst on patrol in the Helmand province, Afganistan.

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED: 2011/048

That the Minutes of the last meeting and the Special meeting of the County Council held on 19th May 2011 be agreed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman, with the following amendments to the minutes of the last meeting:-

- Page 2 – paragraph titled “Outgoing Chairman’s Address” last sentence amended to read:-

“He also thanked his wife and Mrs Sylvia Gillespie-Bell who had acted as consorts for the year.”

- Page 2 – Item 1 – Election of Chairman was seconded by Councillor Joyce Bosnjak nor Councillor Alan Rhodes as printed.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The following apologies for absence were received:-

Other County Council Business

- Councillor Jason Zadrozny (LGA Conference)

Medical/Illness

- Councillor Steve Carr
- Councillor Rachel Madden
- Councillor Les Ward

Holiday

- Councillor Ken Rigby

Other

- Councillor Michelle Gent

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS

(a) Constituency Issues

Set out in Appendix A to these minutes is a full note of the issues discussed by Councillors as follows:-

Councillor Gail Turner – Waste Core Strategy and Ashfield

Councillor Sybil Fielding – School walking routes, Rhodesia and Shireoaks

Councillor Keith Girling - Hawtonville Children’s Centre

5. PETITIONS

(a) PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

The following petitions were presented to the Chairman as indicated below:-

1. Councillor Bruce Laughton – Petition to improve the traffic problems on Church Street, Southwell
2. Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle – Petition against the disposal of the playing field and the land at the former Manton School site in Worksop
3. Councillor Richard Jackson – Petition against the withdrawal of the Trent Barton Toton Connect Bus Service
4. Councillor Sybil Fielding – Petition against the withdrawal of free school bus service for Shireoaks and Rhodesia

RESOLVED: 2011/049

That the petitions be referred to the appropriate Cabinet Members for consideration in accordance with Standing Orders.

(b) REPORT BACK ON PETITIONS

RESOLVED: 2011/050

That the contents and proposed actions in the report back on petitions received on 19th May 2011 be noted and the petitioners be informed accordingly.

6. QUESTIONS

(a) QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7.1

Seven questions had been received as follows:-

1. from Councillor Chris Winterton about Southern Cross Care Homes (Councillor Kevin Rostance replied)
2. from Councillor Sybil Fielding concerning unauthorised Traveller encampments (Councillor Mick Murphy replied)

3. from Councillor June Stendall on behalf of Councillor Les Ward regarding spending on care for the over 65's (Councillor Kevin Rostance replied)
4. from Councillor Chris Winterton about the framework agreement (Councillor Reg Adair replied)
5. from Councillor Martin Wright concerning an application to build an Energy Recovery Facility at the former Rufford Colliery site (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)
6. from Councillor Sybil Fielding regarding proposed changes to walking routes (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)
7. from Councillor Chris Winterton about care packages in residents homes (Councillor Kevin Rostance replied)

The full responses to these questions under Standing Order 7.1 are set out in Appendix B to these Minutes.

(b) QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7.2

There were no questions under Standing Order 7.2

7. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

(a) CABINET MEMBERS

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts presented the reports. The reports were seconded by the Councillor Martin Suthers OBE.

RESOLVED 2011/51

That the reports from Cabinet Members be noted.

During consideration of these reports, Council adjourned from 12.35 pm until 1.54 pm for lunch.

(b) CHAIR OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Councillor Joyce Bosnjak presented the report. The report was seconded by Councillor Sue Saddington.

RESOLVED 2011/052

That the report be noted.

8. A453 IMPROVEMENT M1 (J24) TO A52 NOTTINGHAM

Councillor Richard Jackson introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/053 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED: 2011/053**

1. That Council fully endorse the A453 Improvement Scheme as contained in the Secretary of State's published draft Statutory Orders (January 2009) and seek the inclusion of this project into the trunk road programme for start of construction before 2015.
2. That Council authorise the contribution of £20m to the Department of Transport subject to approval and commencement of the scheme.

9. HUCKNALL TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME – BEST AND FINAL FUNDING BID SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT

Councillor Richard Jackson introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/054 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Kevin Rostance.

RESOLVED: 2011/054

1. That Council authorise a variation to the Capital Programme of £10.112m, including £650,000 from the Anticipated Future Schemes allocation, in line with section 4.2.6.3 of the Financial Regulations, with specific funding determined following the outcome of the Department for Transport bidding process.
2. That, subject to full consideration of the recently received Government advice, the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways, and the Cabinet Member for Finance jointly through delegated authority, consider and approve or otherwise the best and final bid to Department for Transport. This in light of the ongoing scheme review and subject to negotiations with Ashfield District Council and Gedling Borough Council regarding financial contributions.

10. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES - THE JOINT LOCAL ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT AND THE D₂N₂ LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/055 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Keith Girling

RESOLVED: 2011/055

1. That the completion of the Joint Local Economic Assessment and its proposed publication on the County Council's website be noted and in particular, to welcome the production of the Strategic Development Opportunities document as referenced at Appendix A be welcomed;
2. That the good progress being made by the D₂N₂ Local Enterprise Partnership and the support being offered by the County Council in its on-going development be noted and in particular, to welcome the announcement of the Enterprise Zone for the Boots Campus at Beeston, Nottinghamshire.

11. REFRESH OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2010-14

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/056 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Suthers OBE.

Following a debate the motion was put to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman indicated that it was carried.

The requisite number of Members requested a recorded vote and it was ascertained that the following 45 Members voted '**For**' the motion.

'FOR'

Reg Adair
Chris Barnfather
Victor Bobo
Richard Butler
Allen Clarke
Ged Clarke
L B Cooper
John Cottee
Michael J Cox
Bob Cross

Mrs Kay Cutts
V H Dobson
Stephen Garner
Keith Girling
John M Hemsall
Stan Heptinstall MBE
Rev. Tom Irvine
Richard Jackson
Rod Kempster
Eric Kerry

Bruce Laughton
Keith Longdon
Geoff Merry
Mick Murphy
Philip Owen
Carol Pepper
Thomas A J Pettengell
Mike Quigley MBE
Mrs Wendy Quigley
Kevin Rostance
Mrs Sue Saddington
Mel Shepherd MBE
Mark Spencer MP

June Stendall
Andy Stewart
Martin Suthers OBE
Lynn Sykes
David Taylor
Gail Turner
Keith Walker
Stuart Wallace
Gordon Wheeler
Brian Wombwell
Martin Wright
Liz Yates

The following 15 Members voted '**Against**' the motion.

'AGAINST'

John Allin
Joyce Bosnjak
Steve Carroll
John Clarke
Jim Creamer
Sybil Fielding
Glynn Gilfoyle
Kevin Greaves

John Knight
Sheila Place
Darrell Pulk
Alan Rhodes
S Smedley MBE JP
Parry Tsimbirdis
Chris Winterton

There were no Members who 'abstained' from the vote.

The Chairman declared that the motion was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2011/056

That the adoption of revisions to the Strategic Plan 2010-2014 as detailed in the attachment to the report be approved.

12. STRATEGIC PLAN PERFORMANCE 2010/11

Councillor Andy Stewart introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/057 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Allen Clarke.

RESOLVED: 2011/057

That the report be noted.

13. EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION STRATEGY

Councillor Philip Owen introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/058 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Allen Clarke.

RESOLVED: 2011/058

That the Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy attached as Appendix A to the report be approved.

14. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2010/11

Councillor Reg Adair introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/059 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Sheila Place.

RESOLVED: 2011/059

1. That the new procedures for approval of the accounts be noted
2. That the draft Statement of Accounts 2010/11 be noted
3. That County Council be prepared to approve the audited Statement of Accounts 2010/11 in accordance with the new Regulations.

15. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS 2010/11

Councillor Reg Adair introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/060 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor David Taylor.

RESOLVED: 2011/060

1. That year end carry forwards as set out in paragraph 3.6 and Appendix B of the report be approved
2. That the level of County Fund Balances as set out in paragraph 6.1 and Appendix A of the report be approved

3. That the movements in reserves as detailed in section 6 and Appendix D of the report be approved

16. RESPONSE TO THE 2ND CONSULTATION ON SAVINGS IN SUPPORTING PEOPLE BUDGET

An amendment to appendix 1 of the report was circulated to all Members which amended section 4.1 of the appendix to read 'Supporting People funding to be withdrawn by the end of September 2011.'

Councillor Kevin Rostance introduced the report as amended and moved the motion in terms of the resolution 2011/061 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Stuart Wallace

Following a debate the motion was put to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman indicated that it was carried.

The requisite number of Members requested a recorded vote and it was ascertained that the following 38 Members voted '**For**' the motion.

'FOR'

Reg Adair	Mick Murphy
Chris Barnfather	Philip Owen
Victor Bobo	Carol Pepper
Richard Butler	Thomas A J Pettengell
Allen Clarke	Mike Quigley MBE
Ged Clarke	Mrs Wendy Quigley
L B Cooper	Kevin Rostance
John Cottee	Mrs Sue Saddington
Michael J Cox	Mel Shepherd MBE
Mrs Kay Cutts	Mark Spencer MP
V H Dobson	June Stendall
Stephen Garner	Andy Stewart
Keith Girling	Martin Suthers OBE
John M Hemsall	Lynn Sykes
Richard Jackson	David Taylor
Rod Kempster	Keith Walker
Eric Kerry	Stuart Wallace
Bruce Laughton	Gordon Wheeler
Geoff Merry	Liz Yates

The following 19 Members voted '**Against**' the motion.

'AGAINST'

John Allin
Joyce Bosnjak
Steve Carroll
John Clarke
Jim Creamer
Bob Cross
Sybil Fielding
Glynn Gilfoyle
Kevin Greaves
Stan Heptinstall MBE

John Knight
Sheila Place
Darrell Pulk
Alan Rhodes
S Smedley MBE JP
Parry Tsimbiridis
Gail Turner
Chris Winterton
Brian Wombwell

Councillor Keith Longdon 'abstained' from the vote.

The Chairman declared that the motion was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2011/061

1. That it was noted that approximately £2.5 million more will be provided by the Council to the Supporting People allocation than the sum 'rolled-in' by Government.
2. That in respect of the final proposals for the Supporting People programme the proposals contained in Appendix 1 of the report were agreed except for the following changes as a result of consultation:
 - (a) The Stepping Stones service in Broxtowe and 109 Vernon Road service in Ashfield be funded by Children, Families and Cultural Services Department from August 2011 until the end of March 2012 whilst further strategic work is completed. This work will seek to incorporate Supporting People funded young people services into a new Targeted Youth Support Service jointly commissioned by Children, Families and Cultural Services and Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection Departments. This will provide a more integrated and cost effective programme to those currently in receipt of the service whilst further strategic work is completed, as set out in paragraph 23 (Appendix 1 (13.3 and 13.7)).
 - (b) Funding for both the New Roots Daily support scheme and Lombard and Barnby Gate services be maintained at the existing value for 2011/12 to provide the organisations with sufficient time to review and reduce their services and for the Council to also complete its review and determine its future service requirements, as set out in paragraph 27 of the report. (Appendix 1 (13.10 and 13.11))

- (c) The Travelling Together service be funded on a reduced basis from August 2011 until the end of March 2012. This will enable new generic Supporting People funded services to be commissioned by April 2012 as set out in paragraph 29. (Appendix 1 (11.1))
 - (d) Jigsaw Mansfield floating support service be subject to a phased reduction in funding to enable the organisation to seek and identify alternative streams of funding as set out in paragraph 32. (Appendix 1 (8.1)).
 - (e) Domestic Violence service proposals are amended as set out in paragraphs 33 to 35 so that contracts for the existing floating support services and refuges are reduced whilst work between Supporting People, Nottinghamshire County Council Grant Aid, Community Safety and Children, Families and Cultural Services is undertaken to commission new, more integrated, services for women and children affected by domestic violence as this is considered to be an area of high priority for the Safer Nottinghamshire Board. (Appendix 1 (2.1 to 2.5))
 - (f) The Older People service model undergoes further work, with the view to exploring the best use of available budget to achieve prevention objectives. (Appendix 1 (8.2)).
 - (g) Homelessness accommodation-based service contracts which are to be retained are varied to achieve the required savings and services are retained with the existing service provider. (Appendix 1 (4.1))
 - (h) An assessment of the changing demands on Mental Health floating support services is completed, with the possibility of combining floating support and accommodation-based services into one tender to be run during 2011/12. (Appendix 1 (6.2-6.4))
3. That it was noted that the timescales outlined in Appendix 1 of the report may be subject to minor changes in phasing subject to contract variations and procurement processes.

17. TRADING SERVICES REVIEW – SERVICE DELIVERY OPTIONS FOR HIGHWAYS, FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND PROPERTY DESIGN & MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Councillor Martin Suthers introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/062 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Reg Adair

RESOLVED: 2011/062

1. That the retention of non-schools facilities management and property design & maintenance services in house be approved.
2. That the retention of the existing provision of catering, cleaning and landscape services to schools be approved, and that the Corporate Director of Environment & Resources be authorised to notify schools accordingly.
3. That the evaluation of a number of Highway activities be approved as detailed in the report for potential competitive tendering.
4. That delegated authority be given to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Highways and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property to jointly approve (subject to the County Council's Financial Regulations and the demonstration of value for money) the procurement and agreement of contracts for the provision of any highway activities from the market.

18. MODERNISATION OF DAY SERVICES

Councillor Kevin Rostance introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/063 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Stuart Wallace.

Following a debate the motion was put to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman indicated that it was carried.

The requisite number of Members requested a recorded vote and it was ascertained that the following 38 Members voted '**For**' the motion.

'FOR'

Reg Adair
Chris Barnfather
Victor Bobo
Richard Butler
Allen Clarke
Ged Clarke
L B Cooper
John Cottee
Michael J Cox

Bob Cross
Mrs Kay Cutts
V H Dobson
Stephen Garner
Keith Girling
Richard Jackson
Rod Kempster
Eric Kerry
Bruce Laughton

Geoff Merry
Mick Murphy
Philip Owen
Carol Pepper
Thomas A J Pettengell
Mike Quigley MBE
Mrs Wendy Quigley
Kevin Rostance
Mrs Sue Saddington
Mel Shepherd MBE

Mark Spencer MP
June Stendall
Andy Stewart
Martin Suthers OBE
Lynn Sykes
David Taylor
Keith Walker
Stuart Wallace
Gordon Wheeler
Liz Yates

The following 17 Members voted '**Against**' the motion.

'AGAINST'

John Allin
Joyce Bosnjak
Steve Carroll
John Clarke
Jim Creamer
Sybil Fielding
Glynn Gilfoyle
Kevin Greaves
Stan Heptinstall MBE

John Knight
Keith Longdon
Sheila Place
Darrell Pulk
Alan Rhodes
S Smedley MBE JP
Parry Tsimbirdis
Chris Winterton

Councillor Gail Turner 'abstained' from the vote.

The Chairman declared that the motion was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2011/063

1. That the implementation of the proposed model of day service, as set out in the report be approved
2. That the revised costs and contributions required for day services be approved

19. REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ROBIN HOOD THEATRE COMPANY

Jayne Francis-Ward, Monitoring Officer advised Members that as current trustees of the Robin Hood Theatre Company, when considering this item, the decision taken should be what would be in the best interest of the Trust.

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2011/064 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor John Cottee

RESOLVED: 2011/064

That it be approved that an application be made to the Charity Commission to appoint Robin Hood Theatre Company Limited as new trustees and discharge Nottinghamshire County Council from its duties as trustees.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.48 pm

CHAIRMAN

M_30JUNE11

APPENDIX A

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30TH JUNE 2011

3-MINUTE SPEECHES

Councillor Gail Turner

“This morning I would like to speak about the Waste Core Strategy that will be out for public consultation in July. I have seen within the Cabinet papers for the 8th June that there could be two or three strategic waste sites in Ashfield, out of the five proposed for the whole of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The strategic waste sites have not been described, I have visited such places on the south coast. These facilities are massive and deal with huge amounts of waste mainly by incineration. Kirkby, Sutton and Hucknall are all mentioned by name in the Cabinet report and I feel that this is very unfair. Ashfield is the most densely populated district in Nottinghamshire but does not produce the most waste, so any argument put forward that these sites are being positioned in areas where most waste arises is not accurate.

I have always said that waste facilities need, and should be, away from where people live. On the border between my division and Kirkby there is already a site with live planning permission for an incinerator. On the border between my division and Pye Bridge there is a submitted planning application for another incinerator, this is just not fair and far too much for communities to bear. It wouldn't be so bad if Ashfield through this strategy was expected to deal with its own waste and it was fairly shared out, but Ashfield it appears it may well be told to deal with by far the most of Nottinghamshire's waste.”

Councillor Sybil Fielding

“It would perhaps come as no surprise to Members that I draw your attention to this Administration's plan to remove the school bus from the village of Rhodesia and parts of Shireoaks. While I recognise this plan is now on hold, as the elected Member I share parents concern that this scheme will be reintroduced at a later date. The consultants engaged to look at this scheme across the county presented a report in January this year and was only made available to myself recently after the decision had been taken. It beggars belief that any professional company or indeed a County Council department would consider sending young people down an unlit tow path and across a field at 7am in the morning, let alone recommend it. It is quite apparent consultants were not aware that Portland Academy will start at 8.15am from September and on this issue, their work is flawed. Parents are incensed and charge this County Council of putting their children in harms way. They feel betrayed, and see this as a cynical cut to save money. I must pay tribute to the parents and to the young people of Shireoaks and Rhodesia and if there's an example of parent power then this is it. They

managed to muster everyone to get a media response and unusually, I find myself commending the Worksop Guardian for truly reflecting the anger of parents.

The media and parent power must have influenced this Administration and it would appear that the Leader has taken charge. I welcome her decision to pause and reflect, but let there be no doubt, there is no safe walking route from Rhodesia and while there is now time for a proper consultation, unlit canal tow paths and open fields can never be a safe route, so I urge you to remove Rhodesia and Shireoaks from the equation with immediate effect. I find it unacceptable to be told about this scheme via email at the same time as officers were informing parents. I have raised many questions, in particular why an officer can access a mailing list to residents while I, the elected member cannot be given this.

I have met with the Chief Executive this morning and I welcome that meeting in answering some of my questions. One has to wonder if this Council is led by elected members or one that is led by officers. There is a principle here and I am minded to take this matter further to the Ombudsman.”

Councillor Keith Girling

“Often, time this Chamber is spent either explaining or criticising what’s either going to, or has been done. However, today I am taking this opportunity to let Members know a little about my division and what it is like. Hawtonville is the largest Council estate in Nottinghamshire; it has areas of high deprivation and also a child poverty rate of 32.6% within the estate, posing many challenges for our children’s services including its children’s centre.

I’m sure Members are aware that Sure Start Children Centre’s now receive Ofsted inspections but what you may not be aware of, is that the Hawtonville Children’s Centre has recently had their Ofsted inspection. The inspection happened as staff were moving from being a virtual children’s centre with a couple of rooms at Hawtonville School, to their own building in a different part of the estate. As you can imagine, staff were concentrating on making sure that services were not disrupted during the move so an inspection at that time was not welcome. However, as is their way, instead of moaning about it, or panicking, they just got on with it, with little or negative impact noticed by the families. I had occasion to visit during the Ofsted inspection and was incredibly impressed by their enthusiasm and good humour at such a stressful time.

Chairman, I am delighted to tell members that the result of the Ofsted inspection was “Outstanding”. That’s right “Outstanding in all areas” and I feel that it is important that the achievements of all the staff, partners and parents are publicised as much as possible, partly to show my gratitude to all involved but also to let the families of Hawtonville know, as if they didn’t already, what a fantastic facility they have. As a result of the inspection, some of their best

practice is being passed on to other children centres, in particular their innovative idea with regards to safety for staff who make home visits.

Chairman, I hope you will join with me in congratulating Hawtonville Children's Centre for its outstanding achievement."

APPENDIX B

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30TH JUNE 2011

QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7.1

Question to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health from Councillor Chris Winterton

“Will the Cabinet Member comment on the recent difficulties with Southern Cross Care Homes.

What can his department do to assist if care homes in Nottinghamshire do have to close, and will he ask the Minister responsible to look at the protection provision required to cover potential shortfalls that may arise in the private sector.

Does he think it right that vulnerable people are put in this precarious situation; what safeguards can he or his department provide to reassure this vulnerable group of people that the County Council’s strategy is fit for purpose?”

Response by Councillor Stuart Wallace Deputy Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health

Thank you Mr Chairman, I thank Councillor Winterton for his question. When I saw it in the question box I was struck by a heavy dose of déjà vu, this is the exact same question that he asked me in March and I gave quite a comprehensive reply to it then.

I would refer the member back to the answer I gave then and I’d also refer him back to an excellent briefing note which was circulated by the Director of Adult, Social Care and Health on Monday of this week. It has gone to all members, it consists of 4 pages and it gives quite a comprehensive outline of the way this authority has dealt with it and will continue to deal with it.

The statement that went out has been authorised by both Councillor Rostance in his role as portfolio holder and myself.

Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety from Councillor Sybil Fielding

“Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety tell us whether he will be reviewing the policy concerning unauthorised Traveller encampments on County Council land?”

Many of my residents in Shireoaks have been repeatedly affected and are becoming very angry about how slow the process is to remove the intruders.”

Response by Councillor Mick Murphy Cabinet Member for Community Safety

“I think many of us have had issues arise in our divisions with unauthorised traveller encampments and the procedure to resolve this can, unfortunately, be slow. Nevertheless, decisions that are taken must be lawful, reasonable and compatible with the Human Rights Act and Equalities Act 2010.

The encampment at Shireoaks was on an unused brownfield site away from the main thoroughfares. Once we are aware of an unauthorised encampment on land that is the Council’s responsibility, we have a statutory requirement to carry out a welfare assessment.

Unauthorised encampments are not a criminal offence. They are a civil offence, giving landowners and local authorities the right to repossess their property using the due process of law.

The Police can carry out immediate eviction under a criminal legislation if there are illegal activities such as a serious breach of the peace, but this power is rarely used and in most cases the Council must follow the longer civil route.

Where the County Council is not responsible for the land, we will refer any illegal encampment to the relevant person or body owning the land.”

Question to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health from Councillor June Stendall on behalf of Councillor Les Ward

“Recent research carried out by Age UK suggests that real term spending in care for the Over- 65’s will reduce by 8%, despite the system already being at crisis point.

Ministers promised to invest a further £2 billion in elderly care by 2015 to help the system until new funding arrangements can be implemented; however Age UK suggests that this money is not reaching frontline services.

I appreciate the budget pressures currently facing this County Council, but am concerned that despite claiming to be investing further in Social Care, this does not appear to be reaching those in need.

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm whether extra funding from Central Government has been received by this County Council and if so how this will be used to ensure that those services vital to the older generation are safeguarded?”

Response by Councillor Kevin Rostance Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health

“Before I start to answer the question, please could I ask you to pass on my personal best wishes to Councillor Les Ward and the best wishes from my Group.

The national and demographic drivers to this are well understood and Nottinghamshire County Council is keen, through best practice and innovation, to meet the challenges and opportunities that an ageing population inevitably brings. Of the £2billion funding from Central Government, half was allocated through local government formula and the rest via Primary Care Trusts. This was to be used in accordance with jointly agreed plans.

The formula grant allocation, therefore, comes to the Council directly as part of the overall pot allocated by Central Government. The Council has already anticipated the pressures in social care allowing for over £40m budget plans.

The remaining £1bn of funding allocated via our Health partners means Nottinghamshire receives £9.6m in 2011-12, split between the two Primary Care Trusts. As plans have to be jointly agreed, the County Council has already confirmed with Health partners a strategic allocation of £1.5m to Supporting People, £4.5m for demographic pressures and the £3.6m to be subject to more detailed plans. We have been in discussion with Health partners with regard to the more detailed plans required and will be bringing a paper to Cabinet shortly with proposals for the overall expenditure.

In conclusion, we had already anticipated the demographic and other issues in regard of care for the over-65's in budget planning, well in advance of Central Governments allocations.

Given the overall financial situation, I welcome the fact that the Government have recognised the impact of increasing numbers of people who require care.

Even allowing for this, there is still a need for further savings to redirect back to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people. Through careful planning and innovative work with partners we intend to ensure the best possible care is available for the over-65's in the county now and in the future. We are working closer than ever with our partners.”

Question to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Property from Councillor Chris Winterton

“Will the Cabinet Member tell us how local firms are currently benefiting from the framework agreement to provide goods and services to the County Council and its service users.

Will he review the Council's policy on tendering for Council work to try and give more support to local businesses when they make their submissions to the Council?"

Response by Councillor Reg Adair Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

"I am pleased, that you have given me the opportunity to highlight the Procurement Policy that we have put in place during the last two years. This enables local businesses to take full advantage of our procurement process and allows us to fulfil our commitment to spend more money locally.

The Council makes use of a number of national and regional framework agreements to procure goods and services in an efficient and cost effective manner. They ensure that we are compliant with the European Procurement rules, remove duplication and reduce the cost of tendering across government.

Use of these frameworks does not preclude the involvement of local firms and in many cases they are used actively to support the local economy. For example the council are a member of the East Midlands Property Alliance (empa) who have awarded a range of framework contracts for construction projects. These agreements have delivered savings of £13.5m across the East Midlands local authorities. Economic regeneration and local employment are key drivers of all empa framework agreements. For example they have established a skills academy to support the training of local companies and individuals. In addition they are actively encouraged to source locally where appropriate – last year 80% of suppliers were located within 40 miles of where the construction project was carried out. Local contractors are encouraged to register as potential suppliers to the framework contractors via a website entitled [buildeastmidlands](http://buildeastmidlands.com). To date 1,007 suppliers have registered and 637 of these have been awarded contracts.

The council is pro-actively working with empa and other local business organisations to ensure the awareness of these opportunities continues to increase and that the opportunities to tender are advertised widely to allow local companies to compete in a fair and transparent process.

We are constantly evaluating our procurement policies and processes to ensure they compliment our objective for supporting the local economy. For example we have reviewed the minimum amount of public liability insurance required so that it is appropriate to the risk and value of a contract. This change improves the accessibility of tenders for local suppliers.

I am pleased to say Mr Chairman that this new procurement policy is paying real results."

Question to the Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability from Councillor Martin Wright

“You sent a letter, concerning the planning application by Veolia Environmental to build an ERF (Energy Recovery Facility) on the former Rufford Colliery site, to Secretary of State Eric Pickles asking him to make "a positive planning decision" and grant permission to proceed.

Can you explain to me and the rest of the Chamber why you made misleading comments in the letter, e.g. "further costs of around £6-8M will make it extremely difficult to protect important services such as social care of adults and children from cuts" and then, when the letter surfaced in the public domain, retracted that comment?”

Response by Councillor Richard Butler Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability

“Councillor Wright refers to the letter regarding the planning application having “surfaced in the public domain”. Some elements of the media did seem to imply in their reports that the letter had been “leaked”, but this was not the case. It was part of the public inquiry paperwork and there was no attempt or intention on my part or the Council’s part to hide our position.

With regard to the sentence highlighted by Councillor Wright, I was not misleading anyone in making the broad point that additional costs incurred by the Council would have an impact on spending decisions in other budget areas.

In making specific reference to Adult Social Care and Children’s Services, my thinking was to illustrate that these were the key priority areas for this Administration, which, of course, is true. With the benefit of hindsight I felt it should have kept to the broader budgetary point, which is why I sought to clarify the position in subsequent media interviews.

The Secretary of State inevitably receives a wide range of information and comment when considering such planning issues and it is for him to decide, in accordance with the Regulations, what is relevant. The decision has now been made and future options are currently being examined.”

Question to the Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways from Councillor Sybil Fielding

“Can the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways give me an assurance that parents of children in Rhodesia and Shireoaks who are affected by the proposed changes to walking routes will be kept fully informed of developments, now that the scheme has been put on hold?”

Response by Councillor Richard Jackson Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways

“I can confirm that we are in the process of writing to the schools and parents affected to confirm that there will be no changes to travel arrangements for this September.

No action will be taken regarding the implementation of the planned changes until a comprehensive review of the available walking routes, supported by consultation with members, parents and schools, has taken place after the appropriate notice has been given to parents.”

Question to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health from Councillor Chris Winterton

“Will the Cabinet Member inform the Council of how many people in the County are now being given care packages in their own homes?

Can he also tell us what the levels of complaints are in Nottinghamshire about the services received from the care packages, and does he think that the complaints mechanism is adequate?

Will he also tell us how many checks are made on the service delivery, and how inspections are carried out?”

Response by Councillor Kevin Rostance Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health

“In response to your question, 512 adults aged 18-64 and 2,950 older people aged 65+ have received homecare packages.

The overall numbers of people receiving community-based services (including homecare, maintained equipment, day services, transport services, short breaks, supported living professional support, meals at home and direct payments) are 4,766 adults aged 18- 64 and 8,029 older people aged 65+. That’s over 16,000 people.

In relation to the complaints system, we feel that the complaints procedure is adequate and is well publicised and available on the County Council's website and via the Customer Contact Centre. Service users also retain the right to complain direct to a Provider in addition to social services.

It is also worth noting that those people in receipt of a Direct Payment cannot use the authority's complaints procedure to complain about the quality of the service, they would need to go through the Providers procedure or change provider.

The number of homecare complaints received by Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection Complaints and Information Team for the period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011 is 48. Of the 48, 4 of these were eventually withdrawn and 3 were taken through safeguarding procedures. For the period 1st April 2011 to 27th June 2011 there have been 9 complaints relating to homecare.

With regard to checks on service delivery and inspections, all contracted providers have an annual audit undertaken at their premises by officers of the Council and a report is produced on the findings. The purpose of this audit is to establish whether providers are adhering to current legislation (National Minimum Standards) and that they are compliant with the Council's contractual arrangements. Information is gathered from a variety of sources for the annual audit report including service users, usually by postal survey, but also from visits within their own home. We also speak to Social Work teams, the Customer Relations Service and other stakeholders such as Health, Care Quality Commission and other authorities.

Last year three providers were suspended as a result of shortfalls identified from the audits. These providers were required to remedy the issues and produce action plans for improvement. Officers monitored and evidenced the implementation of the required improvements and the suspensions were subsequently lifted.

In addition to the annual audit process, routine quarterly meetings are undertaken by officers with each provider. Issues around quality, service delivery and performance are raised and discussed as appropriate.

We also keep a check on service delivery through use of an Electronic Monitoring System (the Infocare system) which is installed within each service user's home. The data recorded on the system ensures 'real time' monitoring of the actual arrival, duration and departure times of the care staff. Care providers are then paid 'by the minute' in accordance with the duration recorded on the system.

Nottinghamshire is one of the few Authorities to require home care providers to comply with this level of monitoring."