

ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL



Council Offices,
Urban Road,
Kirkby in Ashfield
Nottingham
NG17 8DA

Agenda

Council

Date: **Thursday, 11th October, 2018**

Time: **7.00 pm**

Venue: **Council Chamber, Council Offices, Urban Road,
Kirkby-in-Ashfield**

For any further information please contact:

Lynn Cain

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01623 457317

COUNCIL

Membership

Chairman: Councillor Glenys Maxwell

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Tony Brewer

Councillors:

Lee Anderson

Chris Baron

Amanda Brown

Cheryl Butler

Christian Chapman

Joanne Donnelly

Helen Hollis

Jackie James

Rachel Madden

Lauren Mitchell

Lachlan Morrison

Nicolle Ndiweni

Paul Roberts

Phil Rostance

Helen-Ann Smith

John Wilmott

Jason Zadrozny

Jim Aspinall

Rachel Bissett

Tim Brown

Steve Carroll

Don Davis

David Griffiths

Tom Hollis

John Knight

Cathy Mason

Keir Morrison

Mick Murphy

Christine Quinn-Wilcox

Kevin Rostance

Robert Sears-Piccavey

Mike Smith

Sam Wilson

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SUMMONS

You are hereby requested to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at the time/place and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the business set out below.



R. Mitchell
Chief Executive

AGENDA

Page

1. **To receive apologies for absence, if any.**
2. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests.**
3. **To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 26th July and 6th September, 2018.** 9 - 48
4. **To receive any announcements from the Chairman, Leader, Members of the Cabinet and the Head of Paid Service.**
5. **To receive questions from the Public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, if any.**

From Mr. David Hennigan, Sutton in Ashfield:

To Councillor Helen-Ann Smith as the Portfolio Holder responsible for Parks and Open Spaces:

“Can the Council please outline the work it has done to secure our parks, recreation grounds and open spaces it is responsible for in the light of the continuing encampment of travellers across our District? Can the Council please tell me the specific actions they have taken since May to ensure our parks are free for all to use?”

From Mr. Linford Gibbons, Kirkby in Ashfield:

To Councillor Jason Zadrozny as Leader of the Council:

“Following the decision by Nottinghamshire County Council to build a business case to create a single authority in Nottinghamshire abolishing District and Borough Authorities, when will the people of Ashfield be consulted for their opinions and what is the position of ADC regarding this matter?”

6. **To receive and consider any petitions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, if any.**
(None received for this meeting)

7. To facilitate the business remaining from the last ordinary meeting of the Council held on 26th July, 2018 in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 23.

Motion 1

To consider a notice of motion proposed by Councillor Lee Anderson and seconded by Councillor Kevin Rostance, as follows:-

“For the Council to consider banning all dogs from Council owned football and sports pitches and explore options for the introduction of a PSPO”.

Motion 2

To consider a notice of motion proposed by Councillor Christian Chapman and seconded by Councillor Jason Zadrozny, as follows:-

“This Council is committed to regenerating our Town Centres. This Council recognises the problems caused by crime and anti-social social behaviour and its effect on trade.

This Council notes the decisive action taken after complaints about serious anti-social behaviour in the centre of Sutton, congratulates Ashfield District Council on its multi-agency approach to tackle the issues raised and welcomes the difference that our action has made to resident’s lives.

This Council further notes the adverse effect that drug taking is having on our Town Centres with a rise in the use of dangerous drugs like ‘Black Mamba’ or ‘Spice’ with parts of our District resembling horror films.

This Council acknowledges that the main way we can call for extra police resources via Nottinghamshire Police is through the Police and Crime Panel. This Council regrets that the former Labour Leader of this Council failed to attend a single meeting for 8 months.

This Council resolves to:

- 1) Write to the Home Secretary backing the call for drugs like ‘Black Mamba’ or ‘Spice’ to be reclassified as Class A drugs to give the Police more power to act.
- 2) To fully co-operate with the ‘Black Mamba / Spice Summit’ that the leader of Ashfield District Council called for at a recent meeting of Nottinghamshire County Council.
- 3) To write to Police and Crime Commissioner Paddy Tipping calling for more police resources across the Ashfield District.”

Motion 3

To consider a notice of motion proposed by Councillor Helen-Ann Smith and seconded by Councillor John Wilmott, as follows:-

“This Council notes that the previous Labour administration spent £3million shrinking our bins in a failed attempt to increase recycling and that under Labour, fly-tipping went up by 39% across the Ashfield District.

This Council acknowledges that fly-tipping and the state of our streets is one of the biggest concerns that Councillors hear on the doorstep and that urgent action was needed to tackle the problem.

This Council welcomes the ‘Big Ashfield Spring Clean’ where 82,500kg of waste was collected over 3 weeks in Hucknall, Kirkby, Sutton and The Rurals – the most amount of rubbish collected since Ashfield District Council was created in 1974.

This Council further notes:

- (1) 60,900kg of rubbish was collected in static skips.
- (2) 8,700kg of rubbish was collected in flying skips.
- (3) 12,900kg of rubbish was collected in side waste.
- (4) 160 fridges freezers were removed.
- (5) 867 items of bulky waste were collected.
- (6) That 99.66% of all rubbish was recycled.

Across the District:

- (1) In Sutton, 33,500kg of rubbish was collected.
- (2) In Kirkby and The Rurals, 28,500kg was collected.
- (3) In Hucknall, 20,500kg was collected.

This Council would like to thank Council Staff for going beyond the call of duty to ensure the Big Ashfield Spring Clean was a huge success and thanks to the hundreds of residents across our District who helped with litter picks concentrating on our parks and town centres.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- (1) Start the planning for the Big Ashfield Spring Clean 2019, learning the lessons from 2018 to improve an already hugely successful scheme.
- (2) Continue this Council’s fight for a cleaner District as a priority and to use every power we have to catch, prosecute and publicise the fly-tippers who spoil our environment.”

8. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2 (viii) to receive reports from the Cabinet in relation to the Council's budget and policy framework, reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for debate and reports from Officers of the Council:-

a Report on Urgent Key Decision.

9. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2 (ix), to receive recommendations from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees and resolve in accordance with the Council's rules of debate as per the attached schedule.

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10. Notices of Motion.

Motion 1

To consider a notice of motion proposed by Councillor Lachlan Morrison and seconded by Councillor Paul Roberts, as follows:-

“Ashfield District Council resolves to:

- Oppose the Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council's plan to abolish Ashfield District Council in order to replace it with a single unitary council for Nottinghamshire.
- Condemn the Conservative Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council for failing to consult the residents and businesses of Ashfield and Nottinghamshire on their views about the future shape of local government in our area. This shows contempt for the residents and businesses we serve.
- Call on the Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council to re-engage with leaders of all councils and opposition groups in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, working constructively, transparently and in a manner of mutual respect - so that we can work collectively on the issues facing the residents and businesses we serve.
- Call on the Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council to spend her time strongly lobbying the Conservative Government for sustainable and fair funding for Ashfield and Nottinghamshire rather than wasting time on attempting to unilaterally redraw the boundaries of local government in Nottinghamshire.
- Agree to write to the Secretary of State for Local Government stating our opposition to the Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council's plan to abolish all districts and boroughs in Nottinghamshire and replace them with a single unitary council and to highlight the complete lack of any credible business case for such a move.”

Motion 2

To consider a notice of motion proposed by Councillor Jason Zadrozny and seconded by Councillor Rachel Madden, as follows:-

“This Council notes the decision of Nottinghamshire County Council to work on a business case to create a Unitary Authority based in West Bridgford. This Council further notes that Nottinghamshire County Council have already committed £370,000 on a business case to scrap local Borough and District Councils. This could exceed £1,000,000 when Council Officer’s time is taken into consideration.

This Council further notes that any decision on future governance in our county affects Ashfield District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council, Mansfield District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council.

This Council is disappointed that the Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council has failed to genuinely consult the stake-holder residents and businesses of the Ashfield District on their views about the future shape of local government in our area and refuses to even discuss the idea of a public referendum on the issue.

Further to this, the Leader of Nottingham City Council has gone on record stating: “We will only look to expand the city’s borders if the county council goes ahead with its proposals.” This would have a significant effect on Hucknall as part of the conurbation.

This Council believes that the biggest decision made about the future of Local Government in our County since 1974 should be made by the people – not politicians. This Council should formally look at the costings for a referendum in the Ashfield District on Thursday, May 2nd 2019 and bring a future report to Cabinet to consider options.

This Council agrees to write to the Rt Hon. James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government formally stating the Council’s formal opposition to Nottinghamshire County Council’s plan to abolish all districts and boroughs in Nottinghamshire and replace them with a single unitary council.”

11. To answer any questions submitted in writing by Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, if any.

Question 1

Question from Councillor Lee Anderson to the Leader of the Council:

“Residents in the New Cross area feel let down by ADC. With all the recent problems such as anti social behaviour, drug dealing and hostile behaviour residents have raised serious concerns about the number of HMO’s that are opening in the area. Could the council leader please explain what steps can be taken to ensure that the increasing amount of HMO’s is controlled in the future?”

- 12. To receive a list of minutes and a web link to access Cabinet and Committee meeting minutes that have been published since the last ordinary meeting of the Council for Members to give notice of their intention to ask a question of a relevant Chairman under Procedure Rule 13.2.** 63 - 64

COUNCIL

Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield,

on Thursday, 26th July, 2018 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Glenys Maxwell in the Chair;

Councillors Chris Baron, Rachel Bissett, Tony Brewer, Amanda Brown, Tim Brown, Cheryl Butler, Steve Carroll, Christian Chapman, Don Davis, Joanne Donnelly, David Griffiths, Tom Hollis, Jackie James, John Knight, Rachel Madden, Cathy Mason, Lauren Mitchell, Keir Morrison, Lachlan Morrison, Mick Murphy, Nicolle Ndiweni, Christine Quinn-Wilcox, Paul Roberts, Kevin Rostance, Phil Rostance, Robert Sears-Piccavey, Helen-Ann Smith, Mike Smith, John Wilmott, Sam Wilson and Jason Zadrozny.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Lee Anderson, Jim Aspinall and Helen Hollis.

Officers Present: Lynn Cain, Ruth Dennis, Katherine Green, Mike Joy and Paul Parkinson.

C.18 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests

Councillors Cheryl Butler, Don Davis, Jackie James and Paul Roberts declared a Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interest in relation to agenda item 11 (Notices of Motion – Motion 1). They stated that their interests arose from being responsible dog owners.

The Council's Interim Corporate Finance Manager (and Section 151 Officer) declared an interest in agenda item 8 (Recommendation from Chief Officers' Employment Committee – 8th June, 2018).

C.19 Minutes

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 26th April and 24th May, 2018, as now submitted, be received and approved.

(Following consideration of this item and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.1, it was moved and seconded to vary the order of business on the Council agenda by moving agenda items 9 and 10 to the end of the agenda. Following an adjournment from 7.08 p.m. until 7.13 p.m. and having been put to the vote, the motion duly fell.)

C.20 Announcements from the Chairman, Leader, Members of the Cabinet and the Head of Paid Service

Chairman of the Council

“Firstly I have two announcements.

After 34 years of service to Ashfield District Council, Julie Robinson is leaving the Council sadly. To mark the fact this is the last Council Meeting before Julie leaves, I would like to ask if anyone wishes to say anything to mark the many years of service Julie has given us, and I for one will be very sad to lose her because she has been a rock for many, many things.”

Cllr. Rachel Madden

“It is with great sadness that I stand to address the Committee with my colleagues tonight. My first meeting with Julie alongside Colin and Lynn was at the Count back in 1999 when we voted to send somebody in to fight against the toxic landfill that was coming on the doorsteps of Kirkby and Sutton.

Those three people made me welcome, explained everything in words that I could understand and had nothing to do with politics apart from putting a cross in a box every now and then. They have, through the years been my support. Julie has been extremely kind over the years with personal, psychological support. Lynn as well. Needless to say, I said to Julie yesterday, I’m not speaking to you ever again, but that’ll last about five seconds, because the three of them were friends as well as officers of this Authority.

Thank you very, very, very much Julie. You will be sadly missed. You’re an excellent asset to this Authority. Lynn has got a hell of a job on her hands to fill your boots as well, but I’m sure we will help Lynn as well.

All the very, very best to you in your new job. I think you’re going to enjoy it. Whether ‘we’ will is another matter, but all the very, very best, and my heartfelt thanks for all the years you’ve helped me. Thank you.”

Cllr. Christian Chapman

“Obviously I’ve been a Councillor for a short amount of time. I haven’t known Julie that long, but without her I don’t think you know, I could have done the work without her. Particularly over the last 12 weeks, she has been able to organise what I need to do and answer any questions I’ve had. This Council is going to sadly miss you. I wish you all the best for the future and maybe one day you’ll come back to us. Thank you Julie.”

Cllr. Helen-Ann Smith

Thank you Madam Chairman. I’d like to echo what my colleagues have said. When I was first elected in 2007, Julie and Lynn were a fantastic help to me, and Colin. I wouldn’t be where I am today without their help and support. Not only on a professional level but on a personal level as well. Julie, I wish you all the best for the future. I’ve told you this. I’ve told you I’m not speaking to

you, but you know that that's not true because I've spoken to you since! I wish you all the best Julie and thank you very much for the time that you've given to this Authority. It means a lot to every Member that's ever passed through those doors. You've helped every single one without hesitation or question, so thank you very much."

Cllr. Jason Zadrozny

"Thank you Madam Chairman. Before I take this opportunity to wax lyrical about Julie, I would like to also pass our thanks to you for the work you continue to do while you've been recently very ill. I know you were still tenacious about making sure you carried out your duties; and I do also think, Madam Chair at this time, we ought to pass this Council's thoughts over to Councillor Anderson whose wife is very, very seriously ill at the moment and make sure that we pass our warm wishes over to him and her for a speedy recovery.

I thought there was something up because I started to notice Julie was wearing blue an awful lot! I thought there's a strange predilection for this blue pinafore that she kept coming in upstairs and actually I thought they were joking. Mike and Lynn told me and I think I swore, which is highly unlike me, but I didn't believe it, Julie's been joking for a while and obviously I'm pleased for Julie because she's been head hunted effectively....it just shows the quality of staff that we've got.

But I was only three when Julie started working here and she's almost like part of the furniture and I for one will be irrecoverably upset for her to leave even though I'm very pleased for her personally. It's like splitting up an old duo and I said to Lynn earlier it's like Morecambe and Wise breaking up. She said Hinge and Bracket and I said 'no, I'm being kinder than that!

I think Julie and I have had actually a friendship, it's not just been a personal relationship, I think I've got a friendship with all the Committee Team who go a long way above and beyond the call of duty to make sure that we're furnished with information; they put up with our banal requests at all hours morning and night and they do it with a smile. I think there was only one period about five years ago where we didn't speak for a week. I think Julie now agrees she was wrong!

But they do an incredible amount of work on behalf of us and Julie we do wish you well but we are very sad that you're going and I don't hope there's a general election in October and that you have to come back, but if there is, we will keep your vacancy!

Madam Chairman on behalf of the administration and the ruling group I'd like to present Julie with this bottle of champagne for an enormous amount of thanks for everything that you've done for us over the time."

Cllr. John Knight

Thank you Madam Chairman, and like Councillor Zadrozny, I too was only three when Julie started!

I can say this now that I've known Julie for a long time even before we came on the Council. In fact at one time we used to date! Her husband didn't know. That's just a joke before everybody takes it seriously...Julie's got far better taste than that!

Julie is a friend and a colleague. Like Councillor Zadrozny I'm surprised she's moving to Ben Bradley because of course the security of job tenure there is going to be no more than three years, but I'm sure we can find, I'm sure we can and you've got to work with Councillor Baron, that's a double bonus for you!

She's a nice person, that's the most important thing as far as I'm concerned. I'm prepared to overlook a predilection for Tory politics. I'm sorry to see her go. And as you, as has been said they, they made a great team and we have the best actual Democratic Services team in this Council of anyone that I've seen, they will go over and above what they're supposed to do for people and I think that counts a lot for what they do. So thank you Julie and I'll see you around."

Cllr. Chris Baron

Thank you Madam Chairman. Nearly three decades ago I first encountered Julie at a polling station at the old Darlison Court and I remember going in, although I wasn't standing in that ward, I think I was an Election Agent then which we successfully won. We wouldn't do it now but we successfully won and I remember her saying something to me about that she was really hungry.

I think she was actually there with Lynn...I can't remember who she was there with but it was the same motley crew and I ended up having to go and get fish and chips for her, which I got very willingly, and she was a bit mouthy then as she is as mouthy now and then only to find out that she lived down the bottom end of the same road that I lived in in Hucknall We became true friends, even though I didn't serve on the District Council for those 12 years and I was on the County, I still kept on with Lynn and Julie on a regular basis.

If ever I had a problem at Ashfield and I needed to be put through to the appropriate officer it was always best to go to Julie or Lynn and they would always know exactly who to go for. And even those 30 years ago when there was a proper Democratic Services team, there must have been dozens of them and Julie was only a small fry then, and yet she's come through, she's developed her skills and she's got better and better and better and of course as the saying goes, it's going to be a loss for the District Council and a gain for Ben Bradley in Mansfield and Julie will help and support the team in Mansfield very well indeed.

And Jason's kindly just given you a bottle of champagne and of course, with the Conservatives, you get lobster thermidor and champagne on a regular basis!

All the very best and take care Julie, thank you."

Cllr. Robert Sears-Piccavey

“Thank you. I think I came to this Chamber first in 1999 as the sole Lib-Democrat. In the Council the make-up then was nearly all Labour, there was myself Lib-Dem, Aubrey Hobson, God bless him as a Conservative, John Baird and Rachel Madden as two Independents. We formed the opposition, us four.

I obviously knew very little about being a Councillor and I have to say that Julie Robinson was the one person I could ring up and she would tell me either who to speak to, or she would pass my comments on, or my complaint on or she would even sort it for me. She was absolutely fantastic and ever since then anybody who has joined this Council or asked me for any advice I have always said go to Julie, or Lynn, because if they don't know the answer they will find out for you. They won't just say “I don't know”, they will take it on board, they will find out, and they will get back to you and tell you who to speak to or what to do or how to go about it.

To me Julie and Lynn are invaluable and I was shocked when I found this out on Tuesday that Julie was leaving us, but I'm not surprised, I mean Ben Bradley is a crafty old fox and he is gaining a real asset from this Council.

So I wish you well Julie. Thank you.”

Cllr. Tony Brewer

“Right, obviously I've not been a Councillor for that long, and I've not known Julie long, but between you and Lynn, you've been invaluable to me. Every time I've picked the phone up, you've never faltered, you've always been willing to help me out, because this lot down here, they're always here, there and everywhere, so I have to fall back on these. I just wish you well, if that's what you want to do then you are, then you go ahead and do your best as you've always done here and good on you. Thank you.”

Cllr. Tom Hollis

“Thank you Chair and I think before I talk on Julie, I'd just like to say I'm glad to see you recovering and it was great to see you at the memorial event in Sutton town centre even though you weren't feeling well. And I think secondly I'd like to echo Councillor Zadrozny's thoughts and certainly send my love and prayers to Sinead, Councillor Anderson's wife. I think it's fair to say that me and Councillor Anderson's had our tough times over the years but his wife's always been the bed rock between us both and she's such a lovely lady and I hope she makes a full recovery. Chair, I'm sure everyone else in the Chamber feels the same.

But Julie you were one of the first faces I met when I walked in here as an 18 year-old and 3 months, bright eyed, bushy tailed if you like, young Councillor. I thought I could change the world and I thought you were adequately the first person to shoot me down and take a lovely photo of me that ruined the next four years of my pride on the Council's website! But yes, 34 years ago I can't say I was up to much like Councillor Zadrozny but you've been the face of the Council to me.

You're the first person I call and I only can suspect you're, same with Lynn, very frustrated with the amount of times I call you and ask to be put through to the same person and probably wish I'd had their direct lines so I didn't bombard you with the call; but it's certainly a friendly introduction to any kind of problem I've ever had.

I used to admire the days where I struggled to get hold of Phil Marshall the then Chief Executive and you'd put the phone down for a few moments and march round to his office to see if he was in or not and why he wasn't picking up the phone to you. And I thought that it's fantastic that you had that kind of a passion really to make sure that piece of litter got picked up that I was ringing up about; but I think it's fair to say that we'll all miss you.

I'm sure Councillor Ben Bradley MP's going to have a real asset in his office with you. I hope that you keep him well entertained with banter that you've done with us every time I've set up camp in Democratic Services. But I think it's fair to say that national politics is in a bit of a turbulent time and I think you've been well, well versed to Democratic Services in Ashfield District Council at the moment. I can't say many Democratic Service departments have had as much turbulence as Ashfield District Council has and both you and Lynn have performed your duties fantastically. You never know a couple of Councillors might resign or change shift before you leave but hopefully as long as they come in the right way we can all smile about that one. Thank you Chairman."

Cllr. Sam Wilson

Obviously I can't go as far back in time as Councillor Knight and Baron, but I can only go back some 12 years ago. I remember coming in that very first day into a training meeting in this exact room with Pete Smith and he went through all the roles of a Councillor. He gave us a little book called "The Councillor Handbook" that I don't think any of us has ever read (but I've still got it!).

We went through it, and I think I was looking quite daunted as I walked out of the room. He handed us a telephone directory about four inches thick and he said to us "in there is every number you will ever need" and I walked to the door looking at this phone book and he said "don't worry there's only one number you'll need, it's 4316. It's the only number I can ever remember and that just happens to be Julie's so it just shows, obviously she can deal with everything that ever comes forward and like I say I wish you all the luck in the world Julie."

Cllr. Keir Morrison

"Thank you Chair, later on in the agenda we're going to talk about Aldermen and Alderwomen so I mean if we were to have this policy perhaps it would be more useful if we had it for retiring officers like Julie. She's been extremely helpful; she's been absolutely great for this Authority. Like many of the other Councillor colleagues in this room she's also a personal friend of mine and my family's, so good luck with the job Julie. I look forward to all the gossip and all the inside information from the boy wonder's office if that's a joke as well, but yes, thanks for all your years of service!"

Cllr. Cheryl Butler

“Thank you. Thank you Julie, for everything, for the cake, for the coffee, the biscuits, helping me up the stairs, letting me in to have a chat with you. You’re always smiley you’re always there at the end of a phone and we really, really are going to miss you and you are more than welcome back here and I’m sure you know that anyway. Thank you.”

Cllr. John Wilmott

“Thank you Madam Chairman, yes, I go back a few years as well. I can remember coming in to this room, there was Pete, there was Colin, there was Julie and there was Lynn, and it was, to say the least, it was a frightening experience at the time.

When you are on your first day or your second day or whatever it was but the help that they gave to me was astronomical really; anything I asked for, anything that I didn’t know about they were so keen to let me know immediately and it was just absolutely unbelievable.

And do you know every meeting that Julie was in on, the first person in that meeting was Julie, she’d be there waiting for everybody else, ready to give response or any help in any sort of way. Absolutely ready to help anybody. She was energetic. She was professional in everything she did. I think really that it was not just a job of work to Julie it was a vocation, definitely a vocation because the things that she did over the many years a person normally wouldn’t have gone that far but Julie did. She was absolutely tremendous, and she always got on with the work she was doing and she’d always got a smile. Thanks Julie for everything. Cheers.”

Cllr. Phil Rostance

“Thank you Chair. I’m going to keep this brief but as you can tell and as the public can tell, we could probably have a whole evening just dedicated to Julie because of how much she does for all of the Councillors and for everybody in it, it’s absolutely brilliant. I can’t help but feel slightly responsible as she’s coming to work for Ben Bradley, so apologies everybody in here but she’s going to be an absolutely huge, huge loss. We’re going to break up the dynamic duo which is, very, very sad. Being a new Councillor and coming into it is very, very daunting but to be greeted by such a smiley face and such helpful people it really does settle the nerves because it is quite a nervous place to be and you guys have really always made me feel so, so welcome.

So where you’ll be a huge loss here, you’ll be a huge gain for us, this side. I’m trying to say that people are going to...have daggers at me, but we’re really looking forward to working with you and wish you all the very, very best, and sorry that we’ve taken her from you, but you’ve been absolutely brilliant. Thank you.”

Cllr. Nicolle Ndiweni

"I'll attempt to keep it really brief. Thank you so much Julie for absolutely everything. You are truly a gem. Your heart is of gold. I wish you the absolute very best. I remember my first meeting as the Chair of the Area Committee and how nervous I was and knowing that she was right there by my side, to kind of help me with everything, was literally all I needed. So thank you for everything you've done and I just wish you the best."

Chairman of the Council

"Thank you everyone. I'm sure we all wish you well. Right ladies and gentlemen, my second announcement is just to thank the people for the cards and the flowers and the gifts while I've been so ill. I do thank you very much and all the offers for the meals and the help and everything else that I needed. Thank you."

Cabinet Member (Joint Focus)

"Madam Chair, I'd just like to say I am also glad to see you up and about. It was a very pleasant surprise on Monday when I bumped into you. I'm glad to see you up and well. I'm also obviously sad to see that Councillor Jim Aspinall is still not recovered. I send him all the best and to his family as well. I hope him a swift recovery in what must be quite a difficult time at the moment for him. Also obviously to Councillor Anderson's wife and to his family and again obviously I hope a swift recovery on that side."

As sort of taking over on the portfolio I'm happy to present to you work under the portfolio of the Public Safety Crime Prevention as well as leading the Digital Transformation. Along with our open policy there are a number of areas I'd like to bring to your attention since taking over the portfolio on April 26th.

Within the environmental protection area we have an area regarding air quality in relation to a ministerial direction about the air quality along the A38 to the M1. Officers have received Government funding to support work on preparing a draft report which ultimately inform the Government's court case with the European Union. The officers have worked with consultants to develop a staged response to the Government. The reports are in their final stages and once the draft is complete it will be shared with Cabinet and Members.

In relation to areas of environmental protection where we have resolved some problems in Church Street, Kirkby, works in the rear of a building were causing a noise nuisance for nearby neighbours, this was resolved by the new Senior Compliance and Enforcement Officer. So we have happy residents on that element. So I'd like to thank him for that work.

Also we've been having problems with the noise and machinery at Rolls Royce in Hucknall. This was resolved by a combination of noise monitoring, planning application processing and engagement with Rolls Royce alongside the residents. I'm pleased to say a successful conclusion to the situation was achieved for all parties concerned without the need for enforcement due to management and determination of the Ashfield District Council officers.

We also have been looking into the areas of healthy eating options with takeaways. There's a plan to roll out a scheme this autumn. We're looking to partner with our hot food takeaways outlets. Not only ensuring that we are compliant with health and safety and hygiene but also to provide more healthier options to tackle rising obesity levels seen across the UK. We want the District to have a strong reputation for five star establishments and also a strong diversity in food takeaway choice. I can imagine that all of us are agreed that this is a, a good thing for the health of the District.

In relation to community safety, we have had a successful case for non-compliance with a Community Protection Notice regarding the waste at a domestic property. The Magistrate has imposed a fine of £165, costs of £500, a victim surcharge, making a total fine of £695. You might have seen this in the press and obviously it's a good win to show that we're looking to take action in these areas. I'd like to personally thank the ASB team for the diligent work in bringing this to prosecution. I have instructed officers to continue with this level of enforcement where needed. We will not allow a minority of residents to blight the lives of others.

Our work continues taking action within our tenancies for a range of anti-social and sometimes criminal offences. While our efforts are always to work with people, this Administration will not tolerate the disruption of the wider community particularly where in this case causes anguish for the other residents. On a slightly happier note, I am pleased to announce the Substance Misuse Officer who has been seconded to the ASB team to continue our ongoing work with vulnerable people. Essentials to the fore, again helping those who are looking to seek help in this and often difficult times in their lives.

As we might have also seen in the press we have some problems within the Sutton Town Centre at the moment. We are taking as much action as we can. It has been flagged up in various areas and unfortunately it is centring around street drug users. This matter is not being left to fester; the ASB and Nuisance teams and CPO's have been actively working alongside other agencies including the Police, Health Services, Department of Work and Pensions as well as the Voluntary Community Sector. I'd like to highlight how well our officers in the District Council have been working with these agencies and users and I would hope we could all commend their sterling work.

To give some instances of the issues that we are dealing with in the centre of Sutton at the moment; we have 23 rough sleepers or Mamba users known within the partnership so that's obviously the Police and the Community Services and the rest of them working together with those. Two of them have unfortunately been identified as Dealers; one has been recently sent to Prison. We have two Section 1 Injunctions, which are preventative notices to stop perceived threat of anti-social behaviour. We have had 4 issued with Community Protection warnings; 2 issued with Community Protection Notices; 3 have Criminal Behaviour Orders limiting and controlling their behaviour.

Unfortunately, we have had 3 evictions being taken forward either pending outcome from the Court or require a date from the Court. We have a tenancy warning issued and we have a repossession granted awaiting bailiff action.

On a happier note, I would like to say that we have relocated one of the users out of the area for treatment and support. We hope that person can be shown as a highlight in showing that there is a way forward out of the predicament but again these people do need to actually want to actively participate in this.

We've also referred some users and rough sleepers to the 'Change Grow Live' Workers and they are engaging positively which is another good thing. For those of you who don't know what 'Change Grow Live' is, it's a charity organisation that supports people to change their lives for the better. They provide help and support to adults, children, young people, families. Services cover a wide variety of areas including health, wellbeing, substance misuse, mental health, criminal justice, domestic abuse, homelessness. We are working closely with them in all areas, particularly in the centre of Sutton.

We've also support and out-reach workers taking a daily patrol by uniformed and non-uniformed officers. With all of this work that we've been doing we've now been able to provide good intelligence to our partners in the Police and hopefully they'll be able to then allocate their resources better into this situation. In the area of community safety, I am pleased to experience that the welfare team have dedicated and multi-disciplinary individuals. They frequently put themselves physically into situations to protect the community.

As some of you may be aware, I'm shocked to announce that one of our officers was injured in the line of duty within the past week along with a colleague who has suffered severe shock as they averted a robbery. Or attempted to. I personally commend their brave actions and I hope that we can all pay tribute to the brave officer who thought of his job and our residents before all else.

On further areas within community safety, I'd just like to say we have nine ASB and Nuisance Officers taking forward court action to include injunctions, closure orders, eviction notices and cease nuisances. We are currently recruiting, we're currently recruiting four more CPO's to commence the week of the 30th, so next week. We have three new Complex Case Workers including a seconded officer from the Department of Work and Pensions and the newly recruited Domestic Violence and Vulnerabilities Officer.

We have a seconded mental health worker. We've had the funding and will announce the post shortly through some of our partners to then bring that person under our control and it's a much needed addition to the team. As we know mental health has become a big focus and can often be used to avert many problems down the line.

We've also a seconded Substance Misuse Worker from Change Grow Live. As I said, you know, I've been working closely with them. We actually have a member from them working alongside Enforcement Officers day in and day out and I'd just like to say we have been able to extend the finances to keep this person on-board with us through the rest of this financial year. I hope to see them continuing the great work that they've been doing in Sutton town centre.

We also have a new appointment for our Strategic Partnerships Officer, who has ensured that our work develops a stronger strategic context with key

partners and who will take charge of a number of high profile pieces of work to ensure Ashfield gets the resources it needs. Also the waste project with the Serenity Scheme as national funding has been announced to extend this.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have asked for bids to be made for further funding to secure the project until 2020. 18 million is available nationally and we are working with our partners to ensure a strong bid to continue vitally important work protecting people at the risk of suffering domestic violence.

In the area of child exploitation, we have six sessions across Ashfield to deliver sessions to parents whose children have been exploited looking at cyber-safety and wider topics. We will be reporting on the outcomes at a later date as the last session has only just taken place. Unfortunately, we currently have three domestic homicide reviews ongoing. We work with a range of partners to learn lessons. We appreciate that homicide is totally unacceptable and our work looks to how this might be prevented in the future.

Meetings have been set up with a new Church due to open in September in Sutton town centre. This is to explore the education and training with the unemployed and then outreach work to be taken forward in the evening with the homeless. Members of the Cabinet undertake regular walkabouts so that we can see the issues for ourselves and then feed that back into the tasking work which takes place.

For Community Protection, we have a PSPO out for consultation to include the car cruising extension to Hucknall which I look forward to. We also obviously have the General PSPO to be approved by Council, looking to protect our town centres and communities. We've also got the fixed penalty notice being issued to the public for enforcement of PSPO work. We've also had CPO's going to support sports days where they're taking place on public fields, specifically Priestsic Road School, Sutton in Ashfield. We've also been having the CPO's go out with the Environment Teams through the town centres to establish regular grot-spots and take necessary action, persuading people to clear it up or enforce where necessary, returning a sense of pride back into the District.

For our Complex Case Officers, I'm pleased to report some good work coming back on this. Our Complex Case Team works on an intensive basis with vulnerable people and families to help them identify and deal with their own problems. This quarter out of 50 cases, 46 have been completed already. This is above the 90% target so I hope the Council Chamber, Chair, would like to wish them congratulations on achieving this result as I do myself.

Of the 46 completed, 43 residents have shown improvement across the five key areas of housing, health, finances, community and employment as a result of the team's intervention. To give an idea of some of the complex case works that have been going on, the team has supported many individuals and families suffering from mental health decline due to hate crime. Ashfield District Council's intervention has ensured a return to stability, a continued roof over their head and to improve their mental health possibly saving that individual's life.

We're supporting a domestic violence victim to be moved to a safe house and to set up finances and a safety plan which came of a child in need plan. We also have some life threatening cases where services are unable to ensure high risk domestic violence victim welfare due to an individual's chaotic lifestyle and distrust of services. The team's ensured support is provided by establishing engagement to get into refuge and provide wrap-around support including safety planning and action against the perpetrator.

We've also supported the mum and her six children to move to secure accommodation due to their private accommodation having significant disrepair. Support with finances, budget planning and resettlement into a new property including furniture support and assisting the children into school.

We've also had an ex-RAF serviceman who we've assisted through a pension review and for which they've had an award of a war pension which has greatly helped increase their life. We've also had work with an alcoholic male whose been causing anti-social behaviour in a neighbour dispute. Intervention has improved his health and so far stopped the anti-social behaviour and reduced the demand on Police and the Council.

Working with an elderly resident who was a repeat complainer regarding noises; the root cause was identified with the help of the GP being loneliness and a hearing disorder. Elderly care team are now working with the resident on a weekly basis and noise and complaints have ceased, preventing any further incidents. And again obviously, you know, this highlights that they're not just there for the bad things, they are trying to help the whole of our community...a lonely individual in this case.

We've also been working with a vulnerable resident who is alcohol dependent with a number of health problems into securing accommodation. She moves into her new property on the 4th August and is seeking support with her alcohol use.

Now I'm going to move onto the Digital Services area. Again you'll be glad to know this is a shorter section!

One of the main ones we've had is commissioning some external expertise to support the review and the development of the more customer centric organisation and module that we've got. I mean, this is vital, having outside people coming in and viewing what we're doing is going to be vital to getting this across the whole of our District. Not only the Council but also into the community as well.

Work is going to continue into looking at maximising opportunities from the Digital and Service Transformation in an aggressive and realistic programme to ensure the benefits can be taken as early as possible. We look forward to bringing Ashfield into a modern service delivery of Council services. Further updates including detailed reports and the business case will be provided to Cabinet in October.

One final area, is we also have now put out the 'My View' portal, which is available for all employees and direct access to their HR profile. From here they can view payslips and submit expenses digitally. This system is available

over the Internet so they don't have to be actually at the office they can do this at home, at any time they wish and it shows the advantages of the digital transformation and looking to generate savings already through the elimination of paper payslips.

Terminals are also being provided out in the front line Depots and training is being provided to raise awareness and also majorly important for the future to develop all of our digital skills across the Council and also the Council Members as well. So I commend this to you Chair, thank you very much."

Cabinet Member (Inward)

"As you know, April the 26th I was thrown in at the deep end and I was asked to follow Councillor James in handling the Portfolio for Finance. Which also included Revenues and Benefits and Customer Service. Which was a surprise to me but, you know, there you go. Thrown in at the deep end you have to swim don't you?"

I don't know whether it's just because I was given the Portfolio but within weeks Sharon Lynch handed her notice in and left. So I don't know if that's a reflection or just bad luck because Sharon was a brilliant 151 Officer. I know we're going to be talking about that later but as you know we've had somebody step up to the 151 Officer so now we need a Chief Accountant and we've advertised for that. We've only had one applicant apply and they didn't measure up to what we're looking for so we're still in a bit of a quandary there.

I will try and keep my report brief but there is some good news here and some not so good but I'll start first of all with some headline figure news from Revenues regarding Council tax business rates. To June we should have collected 29% of our Council tax; we collected 28.79% so we're only just off target.

On business rates we should have collected 29.23%; we collected 30.11% so we're slightly above on business rates. Recovery of housing benefits overpayments; we were hoping to have recovered 9.85% but we'd only got to 7.96%, just under 2% of where we should have been.

Council tax arrears for all the years, not just for last year but for all years, we should have been at 14.97%; we were down at 12.32% so that needs a bit of work. The Council tax direct debits, we were hoping to have people on 71% and we've actually got to 72.23% so it is slightly increasing. Hopefully with the money that we've transferred for IT systems upgrade that will move it even faster. Business rates direct debits really need some work because we were hoping to have 64% by now but we've only got 50.35% so that really does need some work.

However, what I really want to tell you and Councillor James you'll be pleased with this as well, we've just had the audited accounts for 2017/18 and these are clean and unqualified. As for value for money, again that was clean and unqualified. KPMG went to great lengths to stress the quality of the work and the information and the responses that they received from our financial officers. So it was really marvellous to actually sit and go through that. So although I'm giving the report, I think Councillor James you should also take

some of the credit.

Some of the headlines that come from this was salaries; we actually paid £271,000 less than we thought we'd have to which is always good. We spent £311k less on transport which is always great but a lot of this I've found...a lot of this is smoke and mirrors. We contract hire from ourselves so it's money we've saved from ourselves. Supplies and services we were down and we saved £291,000. We also ended up with a net service savings of £645k.

I'll skip to the headline figure, the Housing Revenue Account which as you well know we can't touch, there is £3.912 million, we are better off than we were budgeting for. As you know there are four main planks of income to this Council; one of them is Grants which are drying up faster than rain today. The other ones are Council tax, business rates and capital return on investments and as you know early on we added another £10 million to that and I'm sure Councillor Zadrozny will give a report later on how we've spent some of that money. But overall we are in a very good position and as you say its thanks to the officers. Thank you."

Cabinet Member (Outward)

"Thank you Madam Chairman for allowing me to speak on these issues. I took over on this Portfolio, the Housing and Assets Portfolio, on April the 26th from Councillor Morrison and these are some of the issues that have been addressed already. So I'd just like to run through a few of them.

There's been a programme to replace over three thousand smoke alarms and fit additional ones where required to ensure all properties meet a higher LD3 safety standard and this will be completed by the end of the month. This is in advance of any recommendations to come out of findings from the Grenfell tragedy which may be laid out in the Government's Housing Green Plan paper which is expected imminently.

The LD3 standard involves putting smoke detectors in areas which constitute an escape route. Where this may be a kitchen area optical alarms rather than smoke detection alarms are fitted in order to avoid false alarms.

The Cabinet approved in June to invest £65K in mobile working technology for Housing Management which will enable officers to spend more time on their patch and provide customers with a more comprehensive service. This comes ahead of a further significant investment in transforming the repairs service and I'll be talking about that in a few minutes. Such investment represents the single biggest service transformation and customer service improvement within the last decade in Housing in Ashfield District Council.

The investment for Housing Management staff will enable them to have full remote access to the full housing system and all customer correspondence which will enable them to address instantly a wide range of customer issues out on the patch without the need to return back to the office to seek further information or send follow up letters to the tenants.

We talked a little bit about digital services but I'd like to talk a little bit about the digital service in the Housing section now that's going to come before us. For

far too long now our Housing Division has been significantly behind other housing providers in mobile technology. Now this project before us will provide us the opportunity to work in a more flexible and efficient way and we'll also be able to deliver the service in a more enhanced and effective way to our customers. It will enable our Housing Officers to work more closely with our tenants and residents giving them more information on housing issues in their own homes.

There will be two main areas that will be involved. Housing Management and Housing Repairs with Phase 1 being Housing Management. Introducing technology will enable the Housing Management programme to be delivered to the resident in their own home because the officer will have all the necessary information to complete the work in the house. And he will have the housing database so he has the ability to check with the resident.

As I say the work on the housing database and the ability to check is very important for the resident so that they know exactly where they stand in the house and not having to go back to and fro. To find all the business, confirm and generate data and letters in the home of the client without it being necessary to return to base to update the system. Which is a fabulous idea.

There are four modules in Phase 1 of the Housing Management. There's Debt Management, which will provide up to date information on money and rent management. This will help in the run up to the Universal Credit. The Customer Management module which will allow officers to update customer information in their own home. The Neighbourhood Module which will give officers time to update action on breaches of tenancy and other problem areas and the allocation and sign up module which will enable the office to sign up the new tenant without going to a Property Shop. All these modules will save time and money and create a good first impression with all new customers.

Then you come to Phase 2 which will be Housing Repairs. This service also lags back, lags behind other providers terribly and has a direct impact on customer satisfaction. As well as service reputation with residents and staff, a review of the repair service is currently underway. So a further report will be assessed in September.

There is a number of inefficiencies in the operation of housing repairs. All will be addressed by the introduction of a dynamic resource scheduler. This will allow self-appointing repairs where the customer chooses a timeslot. The operatives will need to become multi-skilled. Through that issue they will be able to obtain a formal qualification by the virtue of being recognised as a multi-skilled tradesperson. It has been discussed with staff and there does not seem to be any problem.

To obtain full maximum advantage from the system operatives they will be asked to take their vans home with them. The biggest saving from the new system is that each operative should be able to complete an extra job a day. Which over a period of time should save millions of pounds on money we give to external contractors each year.

The Repair Team has completed 100% of gas safety checks. That's one month earlier than it was down to do. The schedule includes all the normally

hard to access properties, customer missed appointments and no access. Achieving the annual gas service in its tenants' homes is one of the biggest operational risks that the Council carries and is also vital to ensure our residents are kept safe in their homes.

The move comes ahead of new service regulations that means the boilers can be serviced up to one month ahead of their anniversary date but still retain their original servicing date. This works much to the same principle as a car MOT which can be conducted one month ahead of the due date. Changing over to this new system will allow for more flexibility within the gas serving regime which means the service can be more flexible to the customer's needs to have the date changed at the last minute without the service running the risk of becoming non-compliant.

The Cabinet in July approved a new set of Housing Strategy Targets for 2018/20. This includes bringing all social managed properties up to a minimum thermal efficiency level at a time when utility bills are rising fast and tenants' incomes are running low due to the introduction of Universal Credit.

The plan also brings forward the Council's first large scale social housing development for families in the District in a generation as well setting out a vision for the Council's own private housing company to provide much needed income for the Council.

Plumbing apprentice Keaton Pierce was awarded the Chartered Institute of Housing 'Apprentice of the Year' for the East Midlands region. Keaton has been noted as a rising star within the local area and has become a mentor for other apprentices. I've got a little letter here that's come from a number of his workmates.

Employed as an Apprentice Plumber his transition from full time education to the workplace has not been all plain sailing. This is not a tale of success and prosperity from the outset. This is a nomination borne out of reality and inspiration, charting a young man's determination to succeed through adversity. Keaton is a pleasant and assuming individual with an inspiring determination to complete his apprenticeship.

Through no fault of his own Keaton has found himself effectively homeless, initially sleeping on his sister's couch until this became untenable and having not eaten for some days. None of his supervisors or colleagues were aware of his plight as he continued to attend both work and college without any indication of his difficulties. Always smiling and keen to get on with his training it wasn't until Keaton contacted his supervisor one winter's morning concerned that he couldn't get to work on time having slept on the streets that night as he had nowhere to go, that his situation was discovered.

Although Keaton did have options to go and live with family in another area, this would have meant that Keaton would have had to give up his apprenticeship, which he didn't want to do as he enjoyed what he was doing and was determined to complete his training.

Keaton has already made such an impact on colleagues with his polite, positive and pleasant demeanour that as they became aware of Keaton's

predicament they worked endlessly to support Keaton through this difficult period and find him accommodation. Keaton's colleagues and myself were astounded that Keaton had been going through this ordeal without the slightest indication. Keaton's work and learning continued to be excellent. Attending to his duties with a smile and an unrivalled willingness to learn, never letting on what was going on behind the scenes.

This is a testament to Keaton's personality and is an inspiration to others. Now he's got more of a stable situation, Keaton continues to work with a dedicated team of colleagues to deliver plumbing services to our customers. He has shown exceptional willingness and an aptitude for multi-skilling, going above and beyond his dedicated profession."

Deputy Leader of the Council (Outward Focus)

"I'd like to start by extending all our best wishes to the Community Protection Officers that were injured last week, to Councillor Anderson's wife and to Councillor Aspinall and hope them all a speedy recovery. And yourself as well Madam Chairman, it's nice to see you back in the Chair.

I'd like to start by saying first of all, like other Portfolio's, the Environment Division has been extremely busy. I would like to say a big thank you to the senior officers, Carol Cooper-Smith, Sam Dennis, Charlie Edwards and their teams. The work that they have done since I took over as Portfolio Holder for Environment has been second to none. Keeping our streets clean, collecting bins and having great parks are just some of the priorities of our local residents. In this report I will be summarising just some of the highlights of things that we have achieved over the past few months.

Firstly, Madam Chairman, I am delighted to announce tonight the development state for the Mill Waters Project based at Kings Mill Reservoir has been a success and an approval has been received from Heritage Lottery allowing the partnership to submit our funding bid in August 2018. The outcome of the bid will be confirmed in November 2018 which will hopefully secure the investment across the sites enabling the commencement of the improvements from January 2019.

This project continues to develop opportunities and partnerships including recently starting the development of an Audio Trail with support from Vision West Nottinghamshire students. The students will be using their skills to make audio recordings of the natural environment to create an Audio Trail around the site which will be available later this year.

We have secured the funding for a new play area in Broomhill Park in Hucknall after pressure from Jim Blagden and other park users. The Council have secured £50,000 of additional investment from WREN Landfill Tax Credits to install a new children's play area at the Broomhill Park in Hucknall. This is part of the Council's commitment through the Public Open Space Strategy to provide play facilities on sites spread evenly across the District so that everyone is within walking distance of a good quality, well equipped green space.

We have been working with the local community residents and local schools since last summer on the plans to improve the park previously known as Lime Tree Recreation Ground. The community decided to rename the park to give it a new identity. The new play area will provide a safe and exciting place for local children of all ages to enjoy. Works to finalise the design and costs are underway and it is envisaged the new play area will be completed before the end of the year.

The Oval play area on the Carsic Estate in Sutton has been upgraded through Section 106 funding and a grant of £42,000 given to the Community of Christchurch by Nottinghamshire County Council. Greatly improved facilities for children and teenagers including the refurbished toddler play area and new junior play equipment including new climbing units and a roundabout. The design of The Oval play area involved children from Brierley Forest Primary School and young members of the Church of Peacemakers group and we have been made aware Madam Chairman that since our park was improved it has suffered some serious vandalism. This is not acceptable and I would like to thank local resident John Smallridge for bringing this serious matter to our attention.

This Council invests heavily in our parks and play areas. We will not let the minority spoil much loved facilities for others. I have spoken to Nottinghamshire Police and asked them to increase patrols in the area. I cannot condemn enough those few that spoil it for the many.

A new challenging play unit and swings have been installed at the play area on Bluebell Wood Way, along with outdoor gym equipment creating a great place for the local community to enjoy. The design of the play area involved children from Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School. I was delighted, with my County Councillor hat on, to support through their local improvement scheme a grant of £30,000 to the Alfreton Road Community Leisure Group and £10,000 of Section 106 funding was utilised.

We have worked closely with the Coxmoor Care Club, Abbey Hill School and local residents to develop improvement ideas at Glenview Park at a local scooter trail that local resident Andy Meakin was proud to mention. The open space now has a new identity, Glenview Park, which was chosen by local school children. £15,000 was secured from Nottinghamshire County Council Supporting Local Communities Fund which has contributed to the construction of the new scooter track and the completion of other environmental improvements such as new signage, entrance improvements and painting.

We have worked with the local residents, school children, the Brierley Forest Park Trust to develop ideas for the new play and youth area. It was agreed that the new equipment should be installed amongst the trees creating a unique play facility in Ashfield. The Brierley Park Trust have contributed £24,000 towards the cost of the new equipment which will be installed by the end of July.

We have secured funding for Sutton Lawn, Roundhills and Kingsway, working in partnership with local residents' community groups, we have successfully secured a total of £78,000 from Nottinghamshire County Council Local Improvement Scheme. The funding will be in addition to £28,000 already

secured and will contribute towards inclusive and junior play structures at Sutton Lawn.

A new toddler and junior play area at Roundhills Recreation Ground will be installed to replace the old tired equipment. Thank you to Sutton Junction resident Matthew Ralph and Sutton Junction Residents Association.

An additional £20,000 has been secured from the Football Foundations Stadia Improvement Fund to improve the grass football pitch on Kingsway Park. The funding will contribute towards the installation of new perimeter fencing, spectator hard standing areas and barriers, improved access for spectators and players and new dug outs for both home and away teams.

I am pleased to have worked with residents to finally deliver the essential works to The Wharf at Stanton Hill. Tens of thousands of pounds will now be spent on essential works to improve the health and safety in the area.

We also pushed, Madam Chairman, for an additional £34,000 to be spent on making improvements in and around Sutton town centre. This money is from Section 106 money and will pay for new benches, bins, dog bins and other town centre improvements.

In Licensing issues, we have had a complete overhaul and modernisation of the Licensing service, resulting in £40k income increases and a reversal of a £20k budget deficit from previous years. We enjoyed a good media coverage regarding taxi drivers being allowed to display the England flag during the world cup; and I'd like to say thank you for Fahim Keresh from ADF cars, Sutton for agreeing to front our campaign. Fahim is a credit to Sutton, creates jobs and employment for local people. Fahim has only just been granted British Citizenship and flew the red and white of Saint George with pride in his taxi.

Recently upmarket style micro pubs and cocktail bars have been granted licenses to sell alcohol and put on entertainment. This is a growing trend across our District and as the pub industry is struggling with closures across our District, backing more micro pubs is the way forward and can play a key role in reinvigorating our night time economy. One local pub in my division was announced last night that it was closing for good which was the Mason's Arms on Unwin Road.

Delivery of the Big Ashfield Spring Clean took place throughout June. Static skips across the District complemented by free bulky waste collection enabled residents to get rid of their waste and clean up their communities. Statistics for this highly successful project have already been shared and publicised. It is our intention to evaluate the benefits of the scheme and announce a further scheme early next year.

We are changing the way our operational teams work. Teams consist of multi-skilled operatives who do what needs to be done in each area. There are four crews in Sutton, three crews in Hucknall, and three crews in Kirkby and the Rurals. These teams will be capable of doing any essential work like cleaning graffiti, disposing of drug paraphernalia, hedge cutting and much more.

Our One-Stop Shop teams will be capable of dealing with a number of issues at once. I was delighted to join one of our teams in Sutton last week after being invited by Councillor Samantha Deakin and Sutton resident Dave Hennigan. They did an excellent job cleaning the alleyways around Sutton town centre.

Operational Team Leaders are currently working with their crews to roll out and embed a system called 'White Space' which enables better communication from the back office to the front line, design proactive routes using optimisation software and enables photographic evidence to be captured. The Road Sweepers were the first to take on use of the 'White Space' system and I've been working with this support function to refine our routes. The roll out continues across operational teams and is improving efficiency with remarkable results.

Our Council was at the District Council Network Event in January 2017 which brought together Councils from the East Midlands to tackle fly-tipping. An action plan was created with Ashfield leading on the delivery of the key actions to develop and lead a Nottinghamshire Fly-Tipping Group, branded as the Cleaner Nottinghamshire Group. Officers from the seven Nottinghamshire Councils led by Ashfield to create a local action plan including partnership working with agencies such as Highways England, the National Farmers Union and Environment Agency which have been identified as key to successful delivery of the action plan and positive relationships have already started to form to gain buy in.

I'll leave it there Madam Chairman, thank you."

Leader of the Council

"Madam Chairman, firstly there is some important business, so I'll be jovial, but obviously this has been a long time since we took over the Council and my Cabinet have demonstrably been working incredibly hard so I'd like to pay thanks to them.

Obviously it's been a very busy few months for me as I've taken on the Cabinet roles that were held by the previous Leader and the Deputy Leader and that saves almost £9,000. I'm doing double the work, two for the price of one in effect.

Madam Chair I've met and had many dozens of meetings with Members, officers, community groups and businesses. I've attended many community events and public meetings in every single part of the District and it's been an honour to do so.

There are though a few important highlights that I need to mention to Members tonight, particularly about High Speed 2 and the new Unitary Council bid which I'll come to shortly.

I will quickly though talk on the Local Government Association Conference which unfortunately the Leader of the Opposition was unwell and unable to attend. I was able to have a private meeting with the Secretary of State, James Brokenshire, particularly talking about commercialisation and the

issues. I raised a question in the Chamber which he failed to answer and then at the District Council's Network I secured some time with him and Rob Mitchell and we particularly pressed him about the changes to the MRP provision and what effect that will have.

As you know we drew down £9.9 million extra on the programme to make sure we could invest and we've invested just over £4 million of that already. I've spoken to Leaders of the Groups to make sure they were aware of that as I promised I would do. It's an incredibly good deal for us still but the MRP has reduced that and I've challenged him about that and he agreed to look at the letter that we sent. I have sent him six letters now since being Leader, so hopefully he will answer this one.

I do want to say Madam Chair that we have done some work on Place Enhancement and identified and prioritised the economy and community pride and aspiration as a key area of improvement within the Council's Corporate Plan. I took a report to Cabinet on the 9th of July which was approved and this approved the delivery of key projects, programmes and initiatives. The actions identified through the process have been embedded into the Shadow Board's Practice Plan. Work is now ongoing and there are many positive developments underway to help grow the economy.

The next steps are for us to define the Ashfield Brand, establish the Brand and Marketing Plan to utilise the learning and the place leadership work to realign and reinvigorate inward investment and promotion. The new Place Team is now being established at the Council to deliver town centre projects, markets and events and establish and support multi-partner town teams and we will refresh the Town Centre Master Plan and establish a new vision.

There are many aspects of positive action in terms of economic growth which are driving forward. The Nottinghamshire Town Centre Improvement Programme funded by D2N2 Local Growth Fund Phase III. Funding secured for Ashfield projects included Ada Lovelace House which was converted to accommodate seven fully let units. Kirkby Leisure Centre which we are very proud to have altered has been successful for a bid of £1.5 million and the Indoor Market which you know received £375,000 of funding. I've since met with traders and officers now to create and put in place an action plan to increase the occupancy.

Madam Chairman, apprenticeship grants have meant that 22 apprentices have been created in local businesses with the help of up to £1,500 of grant funding from the scheme. I went to see one this afternoon.

Business Grants, over £158,000 has been offered to 42 local businesses from the local programme, aimed at stimulated business start-up, business growth and shop front improvements. This has been a very successful scheme with 81 jobs created as a result already. Almost £67,000 still remains and therefore is still open for local businesses to apply. At the Annesley Miners Welfare, a planning application for 33 dwellings and 37 retirement apartments has been received for the site and I'm pleased to say that as part of the scheme the Sports Pitch will be retained for the local community. A layout has been slightly amended to address issues raised from planners and a public consultation is currently underway. We hope to present the application to

Planning Committee in the autumn. We look forward to seeing a high quality viable scheme brought forward on this gateway site.

The Nottinghamshire Pre-Development Fund, we've taken the opportunity to bring forward a range of early stage projects for regeneration and housing feasibility work. £158,000 has been secured by Ashfield Council by a bid submitted to the County Council from the Business Rates Growth Pool. ADC was one of the most successful bidders receiving support for important feasibility work such as the Leisure Centre, Annesley Hall and Park and Sutton Town Centre.

With Annesley Hall an Options Appraisal and Park and Management Plan have been produced for this important Grade II listed building and its Grade II star listed gardens. We have been working with the private sector only on appropriate schemes for re-development.

Outram Street, following up the feasibility work, officers have collected the ownership details of all properties along Outram Street and will be sending out a variety of letters, including enforcement letters to owners of unsightly sites; offers of grant funding for vacant or unsightly sites and raising the option of alternative usage to appropriate empty properties. We are seeking to pull forward and maintain a pipeline of fully worked up projects which can be developed at short notice when funding opportunities are identified.

In addition to the work of officers, I have personally hosted three breakfast meetings here for local businesses that was standing room only. Many issues that were raised I have already acted on and we are fostering much more positive relationships with the business community. In terms of business, the Vice Chair and I opened Oak Furniture Land in Sutton-in-Ashfield which created almost 20 new jobs and I've been meeting with businesses at Sherwood Park in the last week to look at a new company relocating there which we hope will create over 250 new jobs.

Members may have also seen that the Torkard room has been fully booked for the last month during the day time as I personally worked with Positive Outcomes, the Training Provider, who has been, because of my work with them, giving skills training to local people and giving them interviews for the new Care Facility in Kirkby. I'm very proud to say that me fostering that relationship with them has seen over 20 Ashfield residents who were unemployed gain a new job right here in Kirkby. It's that kind of rolling your sleeves up attitude that my administration and I are doing that is improving the quality of life for local residents.

Madam Chair, with regard to planning issues, conservation area status is being investigated for Hucknall town centre following development including engagement with the local Historic Society. The proposed area has been developed and will shortly be presented to Cabinet for discussion and the decision on whether to proceed with consultation formerly with the local community. The Conservation Area would include the Byron Cinema.

A draft planning brief for Annesley Miner's Welfare was developed in partnership with the developer's planning advisor which has influenced the submission of the planning application on that site. Our team are hopeful that

working with the developer we may be able to find a solution to the extreme congestion issues there as well that have been ignored for a generation.

The team is currently working up a draft brief to complement the work of regeneration on Outram Street. The Forward Planning Team is also developing a programme for town centre master plans. Sutton, in the first instance, will be the priority as part of this work and the team will also be working on a palette or look book for town centre works to ensure a consistent approach to designer street furniture.

Madam Chairman, we now have six apprentices or graduate trainees and have also hosted two school work placements in this last month. Performance in planning is now in line with all Government targets and has been exceeded on the determination of all applications. Appeals are being closely monitored and both majors and others are within Government tolerances and have significantly improved under our tenure. I must pay special tribute to the new Chairman of Planning who has taken incredibly well to his new role and is pulling the department up by its boot straps and reviewing options to make the Planning Committee process much more open and collaborative. Councillor Baron, thank you for the work you are doing, it is long overdue.

Building Control has dealt with over 600 applications this year. It's an excellent performance, given that there is a strong external competition from the private sector. There are indications that this might now have plateaued and the team is working efficiently. We continue to monitor the situation regarding external competition and enjoy close working relationships with our neighbouring authorities when it comes to sharing the resources.

HS2 comprises of three phases Madam Chair. The local implications for Ashfield are that the route through Ashfield will pass by Hucknall, in close proximity to the east of the M1 Motorway, to the north of Junction 27 and the route deviates along the motorway passing under the A38 to the new McArthur Glen Designer Outlet Centre. I must stress for Members that I've been to some very high level meetings now and HS2 has not been really on our radar.

I must tell you, it is my strong opinion that this is happening and will be happening to Ashfield and we need to be at the head of the curve to make sure that we can steer it as much as we possibly can. Beyond the A38 the route is located in the countryside between Huthwaite and Hilcote, with a spur to the north of Hilcote going to Sheffield. In June HS2 produced the maps identified as work in progress showing the evolving design. Through Ashfield the route will largely be on a series of embankments or cuttings but there will be a significant viaduct across the Erewash Valley.

It's understood that there are no road closures affecting Ashfield now, however a number of roads will be realigned or have other work identified. The junction at Junction 27 M1 will be doubled in size. Salmon Lane from Annesley to Selston will be realigned with a new bridge over the motorway. The B6018 Park Lane, Kirkby-in-Ashfield to Selston, will be completely realigned. The B019 Kirkby Lane, Kirkby to Pinxton; the design of the crossing at that point is still under redevelopment.

Farmwell Lane on the Castlewood Business Park will need to be completely realigned and it's understood that the crossing track under the A38 has now been modified in order to reduce the land take and simplify the construction. The B5026 Huthwaite Lane will now be completely realigned and Newton Wood Lane, Madam Chair, will also be realigned. There are anticipated to be some impacts on the rights of way in relation to this. Madam Chair, I will move on to some of the more important parts of the HS2.

Ashfield is working alongside other councils to consider what mitigation measures can be put in place. Lavalin have been appointed to undertake a study on potential mitigation measures, the role of the study is to inform the Council about what councils can realistically be considered by HS2. For Ashfield this has economic, social and environmental impacts. This includes the impact on the residential areas in Hucknall West, the impact on Junction 27 the Sherwood Business Park, the impact on Annesley Hall and the Historic Garden, the SSSI at Selston and the construction there.

ADC is now continuing to engage and lobby for the new Maid Marion Line which would see a Kirkby link straight through Ilkeston up to Chilwell. As I said Madam Chairman, I'm a member of the new Mitigation Board. What is stark is that I am the first Councillor from this Authority ever to have attended a Mitigation Board Meeting. Through my attendance Madam Chair, I've already been able to steer the projects. As Junction 27 has doubled in size, I've worked closely with the Mitigation Board to ensure the junction is never closed and the work allows traffic to continue to flow as freely as possible. I've also ensured now that one of the work compounds is located on Castlewood Business Park so that we have the work and business rate benefits and that we can all align ourselves as well with the severance issues along the A38.

Madam Chairman, the final point that's relevant is that most of these public consultations have been outside of Ashfield District. The HS2 Board have now agreed that one of the consultations at the end of this year will be in Ashfield District so it's relevant for residents.

I just want to tell Members who will be aware, there was a motion to the County Council that was passed recently to create a business case to abolish the current model of Local Government and investigate having either one, two or three new unitary councils for Nottinghamshire. There are two different procedures, a historical one and a new one, which is time restricted. It's likely that the County Council will use the alternative procedure.

Madam Chairman I have met now twice with all of the District Leaders regarding this issue and collectively we've written twice to Councillor Cutts, the Leader of the County Council, to express our concerns about the method in which the County Council is working at the exclusion of the District and Borough Leaders.

Last week I met with Councillor Cutts and Councillor Alan Rhodes, Leader of the County Group, to discuss a way forward. The County Council is now putting in place a new Working Party that is to go over the business case. As a County Councillor I've been appointed to that Working Party. The option of just one central office in West Bridgford is one that I will oppose as is the dilution of any service provision in Ashfield. This case will now be brought

forward to a full County Council on the 13th of December and therefore I will of course keep Members informed of any of those outcomes.

Madam Chairman I'll wrap it up there and apologise for the brevity of my comments. Thank you."

During the announcements, the following Councillors briefly left the meeting and returned as follows:-

Councillor:	Left Room (p.m.):	Returned to Meeting (p.m.):
Cathy Mason	7:45	7:47
Don Davis	7:59	8:00
Cheryl Butler	7:59	8:00
Helen-Ann Smith	8:00	8:02
Chris Baron	8:01	8:02
Tom Hollis	8:02	8:04
Chris Baron	8:05	8:15
Sam Wilson	8:05	8:07
Tom Hollis	8:05	8:07
Cathy Mason	8:07	8:12
Lauren Mitchell	8:08	8:09
Tim Brown	8:13	8:19
Tom Hollis	8:16	8:17
Sam Wilson	8:16 (left the meeting)	
Amanda Brown	8:18	8:19
Mick Murphy	8:19	8:22
Joanne Donnelly	8:22 (arrived at the meeting)	

C.21 Questions from the Public

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, the following questions had been submitted:-

Question 1

From County Councillor Samantha Deakin:

To Councillor Jason Zadrozny:

"The Central and New Cross area of Sutton-in-Ashfield has been plagued with anti-social behaviour, crime and public drug taking. The Leader of the Council has made public statements about these issues, can he now please give us a comprehensive update on what actual actions he has taken to solve these problems?"

(At this point in the proceedings and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 23.1, it was moved and seconded that the conclusion of business be extended to 9.30 p.m. Having been put to the vote it was duly carried.)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Jason Zadrozny, responded to the question as follows:-

“Can I thank Councillor Deakin for the notice of her question, I know first hand from working with you in your division just how seriously you take this issue and how tenaciously your work to help your residents and improve their quality of life.

Getting to grips with crime and anti-social behaviour is one of the biggest challenges that we face. I would like to thank both yourself and Sutton resident David Hennigan for your sterling work to raise these issues with Nottinghamshire Police and myself.

I know that residents in Central Sutton and New Cross have been let down badly by their current District Councillors. Their abdication of duty has left residents without a voice. Luckily, you and the Ashfield Independents have stepped into the breach.

Now, as we know, crime and anti-social behaviour has been an issue for as long as I can remember in places like Central Sutton and New Cross. What we are seeing now is an escalation that is causing untold problems for local residents.

Just over a month ago, I know that you attended a meeting of the New Cross Community Group at the New Cross Community Church with Councillor Helen-Ann Smith and David Hennigan. At the packed public meeting, residents of Welbeck Street and the surrounding area complained of living in a ‘war-zone’ and ‘no-go area’. Grown men were almost in tears as they spoke of a gauntlet of threats from youths running rampage in their community.

Anti-social behaviour of any kind is not acceptable and I have recently witnessed this for myself in Sutton town centre. The next day, I had an emergency meeting with yourself and David Hennigan to discuss how to support residents and get to grips with this problem. We visited Welbeck Street later that afternoon to visit residents to reassure them. What we witnessed was shocking.

Young people, residents at a hostel run by the charity Framework were chasing each other with carving knives. Drugs were being openly sold on the streets and the atmosphere was toxic. Residents were in lock down.

Part of the job of a Councillor Madam Chairman, is to highlight issues whilst demanding action. We recorded a brief video at the scene, despite threats from local kids. Before we knew it, the video had gone viral. It’s now had over 50,000 hits with hundreds of comments agreeing with us that something needed to be done and done urgently.

I found out later that day that residents had complained to MP Gloria De Piero and even tried to contact Tim and Amanda Brown, their supposed District Councillors. They did nothing. Residents complaining to those paid to help and them doing nothing is disgraceful!

I immediately called an urgent, multi-agency with meeting with Jodie Archer, Community Protection Team Leader, David Hennigan, a Sutton Campaigner, Sergeant Carl Holland, from Nottinghamshire Police, John Poole, ASB and Nuisance Officer for Sutton, Sergeant Martin Severn from Nottinghamshire Police, Phil Warrington, Service Manager Strategic Housing and Lettings, yourself Councillor Deakin and Rebecca Whitehead, Service Manager for Community Safety.

As a result of this meeting, 4 CCTV cameras, 3 covert and 1 overt, were placed around Welbeck Street, there were 5 evictions from the Framework Hostel, there's been a number of arrests, in addition a number of behaviour contracts were issued there are ongoing patrols of the area took place and was co-ordinated between Community Protection and the Police. Police also increased patrols as did our CPOs. A meeting was also held with the charity Framework and Sanctuary Housing to remind them of their responsibilities.

Also, we are now working with Virgin Media for them to change the type of utilities box they use to stop young people sitting on it and congregating on it in an intimidating manner. These are just some of the things we implemented, others include commencing alleyway closure orders. The result of this was a huge reduction in anti-social behaviour and crime in the area. This was real action which delivered real results. We are continuing to monitor the situation.

Now, I am aware Madam Chairman that some have been critical of the language I used to highlight the problems around Sutton Town Centre. As a result, the story was covered on the front page of The Chad, the Nottingham Post, BBC East Midlands and of course BBC Radio Nottingham where the former Leader of the Council, now Leader of the opposition laughed heartily as she continued to bury her head in the sand, asserting the problem wasn't as bad as I'd claimed.

I am telling you now, it was. Unless we took decisive action there could have been a fatality. Young men were chasing each other up and down the street with carving knives as I attended. It was that serious! No amount of 'giggling' through a radio interview would have changed that.

As I said before Madam Chairman, I am determined to do something about the rise in anti-social behaviour and crime. Not just in Central Sutton and New Cross but across our estates including Carsic where local campaigner John Smallridge was in tears on the phone to me as he discovered our newly opened play area on the Oval had been significantly vandalised and set on fire and in Coxmoor where I was talking to residents yesterday with local campaigner Andy Meakin and the Ashfield Independent team.

In answering this question, I have to say that although we prefer to work proactively with people in order to help them change their behaviour, we can and do take strong enforcement action where this is necessary. We do this through our own teams and also through the relationships we have with our partners in the Police and Police and Crime Commissioner, Department of Work and Pensions, the voluntary and community sector and businesses. One agency working alone cannot solve this problem.

Members might be aware that we employ a team of officers both uniformed and non-uniformed, including specialist outreach and complex caseworkers. These work on a daily basis within Sutton and other communities to address people's issues and take action against any negative behaviours. There are a number of measures which we are taking which is having an impact on Sutton. We all want Sutton to be a place where people can live, shop, work and enjoy leisure activities.

The town centre of Sutton is an important economic driver for Ashfield and we cannot allow a minority of people to behave in an anti-social way to the detriment of the majority of law abiding citizens.

So in terms of active measures in Sutton town centre, we know through our collective intelligence, that there are 23 rough sleepers, many of whom are also mamba users. We have already identified 2 dealers and we work proactively with the Police on intelligence and operational tasking.

We are also taking strong enforcement action against illegal or nuisance behaviour:

7 of the 23 are already engaging positively with our specialist outreach worker;

4 of the 23 have already been issued with Community Protection Warnings;

2 have been issued with Community Protection Notices;

3 have Criminal Behaviour Orders to limit and control their behaviour;

1 has recently gone to prison;

In terms of wider Sutton area tenancies, 3 evictions are being taken forward through the courts;

1 tenancy warning has been issued and another possession granted awaiting the bailiffs.

After years of deliberately holding vacancies, my administration is now recruiting new Community Protection Officers to bolster our existing team. We are also reviewing our options to increase this vital frontline service next year and I am looking forward to announcing in the early New Year how we intend to do this.

While I have the floor Madam Chairman discussing the incredible work of our Community Protection Officers, I would like to extend the warm wishes of this entire chamber to Alan Cordin who was viciously assaulted last week while trying to prevent an armed robbery in the Idlewells Centre. Despite the seriousness of his injuries, and being 70 years old, Alan who we all know cares passionately about his job, is now back at work. It's officers like Alan who work day in day out to keep our streets safe and we owe them a debt of thanks. I hope Alan knows how much we appreciate his hard work and tenacity.

Other measures and services which we have in place include the Public Space Protection Order which has just been approved sets out a wide range of strong

measures to deal with anti-social and nuisance behaviours including in Sutton Town Centre; measures to deal with alcohol abuse, using the town centre as a toilet, directions to hand over alcohol, directions to move on, to name but a few.

The Public Space Protection Order allows us to take both preventative and enforcement action against those perpetrators who blight the lives of ordinary people going about their lawful business. Our town centre team liaises on a daily basis with the businesses to work with them on any issues which affect their livelihoods. We have recently implemented a Town Team approach which will involve a whole range of key town centre stakeholders working together and managing their issues on a partnership basis. I would urge businesses to engage in this approach. As I've already said, we can achieve far more by working together than we can by acting alone.

Our Environmental Services Team clean the town centre streets and other areas on a daily basis. The Complex Casework Team, currently based in New Cross, works with people with multiple needs on a one to one basis and they are achieving great success in helping people manage their own problems.

The team there are doing a great job and I intend to further improve their work by changing their approach to be a more flexible one, allowing them to work with residents in a much more fluid and responsive manner.

We have a specialist outreach worker from the Change Grow Live service, who works intensively with homeless and those with alcohol and drug problems in order to help them access appropriate services.

As Leader of this Council, I have daily walks around all of Ashfield, but particularly in places like Sutton. I know that you, County Councillor Deakin and David Hennigan are regular visitors to traders and residents too.

I can see for myself where we need to put more resources. I am determined to ensure that what's happening in Sutton is only a temporary blip and it will become once again a place of choice for people to live, work and enjoy their leisure time.

We have also sent clean up teams to Priestsic School and down Outram Street to try and tackle problems as they spread from our Town Centre. I am now working with Councillor Chapman to extend the exclusion order onto Priestsic School playing fields and the foot path adjacent to Park Street. I will not sit by while parents are frightened what their children will witness on their journeys to and from school. Our administration will be tough on crime and the causes of that crime. Ashfield Council is now employing a zero tolerance approach to the rising crime epidemic.

I was pleased to attend the recent Police and Crime Panel Meeting at County Hall in Nottinghamshire. This was the first meeting since I took over this Authority. Let me tell you a little about the Panel. The Police and Crime Panel is the major way that we can raise issues in our District and make a plea for more resources.

At the first meeting, I raised a number of issues with the Police and Crime Commissioner Paddy Tipping and the Chief Constable Craig Guildford. I raised the scandal that in the last year alone 36,000 calls to '101' were not even picked up. I also raised the fact that 75% of crime went unsolved in Sutton and 80% in Kirkby last year.

According to the latest crime statistics, crime is going up faster in many of Districts like Sutton and Hucknall than anywhere else in our County. At the end of the day – the stats are the stats and the stats say that policing places like Sutton should be a priority. I'll be continuing to make the case, through the Panel for more resources as that is the best place to do this.

I hope that this gives you the assurance that under my leadership, the Council and my administration and all of its partners are now working hard on a wide range of solutions to address the current issues in Sutton and all across our proud District."

The Chairman then gave County Councillor Deakin the opportunity to ask a supplementary question and she responded as follows:-

"Thank you for your lengthy answer Councillor Zadrozny. It's clear that the intervention of this Council and the multi-agency approach to tackling crime is working. You mentioned the Police and Crime Panel; can you tell us how we as a Council can use our membership of this Panel to deliver the policing resources that our District desperately needs?"

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Jason Zadrozny, responded to the supplementary question as follows:-

Thank you Councillor Deakin and I know you will communicate this information back to your residents. The first meeting of the Police and Crime Panel I attended was on Monday, 4th June at Nottinghamshire County Council in West Bridgford. During this meeting, I repeated the call for more officers and as a result we will see a number of extra officers across our District.

The Police and Crime Commissioner recently joined a number of us on the Coxmoor Estate to discuss the real consequences of crime on our communities. I highlighted the fact that the recent increases in crime were just the tip of the iceberg, especially when you consider the 36,000 'dropped' 101 calls and the reality that many residents simply don't bother to call the Police anymore.

The Chief Constable promised to act on the concerns that I raised on behalf of the District of Ashfield. Already, as a result more staff have been taken on at Nottinghamshire Police's Call Centre and staff have been retrained. As I said earlier, it is worth me reiterating that my pushing the Commissioner will now mean that we have more community based Police Officers for our District.

I also learned that Ashfield's nine Community Police Officers share just one car, with many of them having to attend their duties on the bus. It is incomprehensible that no one from the previous administration challenged this and fought for our share of resources.

However, it was at this meeting Madam Chairman, that I learnt that the previous Labour Leader of this Council had not personally attended a meeting for eight months. Is it any wonder that our District receives proportionally less resources than any other authority in the County?

I can assure Councillors that I will prioritise meetings of the Police and Crime Panel. I am happy to listen to your concerns about crime and policing issues and raise them at the next meeting of the Panel on the 8th October. That's why Madam Chairman I am delighted that you are hosting on our behalf a State of Ashfield Summit Debate in September here, so that all Members can press the Police and Crime Commissioner on his strategy to tackle rising crime. After all, we, unlike Labour, take our responsibilities seriously and will use any forum to call for the best possible deal to make our streets and residents' safer."

Question 2

From Matthew Relf on behalf of Sutton Junction Residents' Association, Sutton in Ashfield:

To Councillor Jason Zadrozny:

"Could the Leader of the Council please let us know now he is in power what he is doing to block the completely unsound Local Plan that Labour put in place?"

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Jason Zadrozny, responded to the question as follows:-

"I would like to thank Mr. Relf and the Sutton Junction Residents' Association for their question. I know what a keen interest they have taken on this issue and also to thank them and the other local community groups for the hard work they have put into the many stages of public consultation to make sure local residents' views are heard. I know that the majority of modifications around education provision have come forward thanks to their work and I would like to express my gratitude for them exposing the gaps in this element in the plan.

At this time, the Local Plan is in the hands of the Planning Inspector undertaking an Examination of the Plan. The Council has no powers to amend the Plan once it has been submitted for Examination.

Legislation requires the Council to set out its policies in relation to the development and use of land in the District in a Local Plan. It is a legal requirement for it to be considered by an Independent Planning Inspector through a local plan examination.

The Ashfield Local Plan was submitted for Examination on 24th February 2017, by the previous Labour Administration. Their submission, meant that the Inspector takes control of the Examination process from start to finish. He determines all aspects of the Examination. Currently the Inspector has identified possible 'Main Modifications' to the Local Plan. Put simply, Main Modifications are possible changes to the Plan, mostly the modifications under consideration are around education provision and access and egress arrangements for certain key sites. The Inspector has requested the Council

to consult on the proposed Main Modifications to enable him to consider any representations to those possible modifications.

The consultation commenced on 22nd June, 2018 and will last for 7 weeks from that date.

In due course, the Inspector will issue his Report on the Local Plan determining whether the Plan is legally compliant and is sound. He has three options

- 1. Approving the Plan as it was submitted;*
- 2. Approving the Plan subject to specific modifications; or*
- 3. If the plan is not sound or legally compliant, reject the Plan.*

The adoption of the Local Plan is a matter for consideration by the Full Council to determine. I have had the Council seek QC advice on the options open to our administration, given that we on this side of the chamber feel that the emerging Local Plan has the potential to cause significant harm to the communities across the towns and villages of our district.

As this is an issue of such interest to our residents and of vital importance to our District I will be calling an extraordinary meeting of this Council for the 6th of September purely to consider our options going forward with the Plan.

Members will be briefed on the full range of options open to the Council, including the adoption of the Plan and also the full withdrawal and commencement and creation of a new Plan.

It would be improper of me to comment in detail, but I do think that it is a matter of record that our administration feels that any Local Plan should be ambitious for the future of Ashfield, with infrastructure planned as a key element. We would also wish to make clear that we are firmly on the side of the majority of residents who want our housing needs met, but in a sensitive and constructive manner on sustainable sites which utilise brownfields as a priority.

I would also like to take this chance to reassure residents in Selston, Jacksdale and Underwood, and Stanton Hill, Teversal and Skegby that wherever there has been a local referendum passed by local residents with a Neighbourhood Plan, that we would not undo any of their work and seek to engage and strengthen their plans for sensitive development in their areas.”

The Chairman then gave Mr. Relf the opportunity to ask a supplementary question and he responded as follows:-

“On the 28th September last year, planning application V2017/0565 was submitted. This covers site SKA3E from the proposed Local Plan as well as a further significant plot of land that was rejected by ADC for development during the site selection process for the Local Plan.

“Can the Leader please explain why this application is still dragging on and if part of the site has already been rejected during the Local Plan site selection process, why has this application not already been rejected?”

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Jason Zadrozny, responded to the supplementary question as follows:-

“Thank you for the advance notice of your supplementary question as it is so technical. This application you refer to relates to the Newark Road Development above Sutton Junction.

This is a major site which requires careful scrutiny to assess the site’s suitability for development. The site is complicated because as you are aware part of the area has in the past been used for landfill.

Within the general assessment of the application is the need to explore whether development can be satisfactorily accommodated and suitable infrastructure can be provided. This requires my Planning Officers to have comprehensive liaison with other partners such as the County Council. It is important that all avenues are explored prior to coming to a decision on an application site.

It is particularly important to explore these matters as the Council needs to have consideration to its 5-year housing land supply and therefore in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework consideration needs to be given to the ‘tilted balance’ (this is the balance in favour of development in relation to 5-year land supply). To fully assess the application, the implications of infrastructure requirements such as education needs and highway improvements must be also fully understood and addressed.

In addition, land stability has required assessment in relation to the areas which have been subject to tipping. It would therefore be inappropriate for officers to determine the application until all these matters can be fully considered and then they can make recommendations to the Planning Committee, because as you will also be aware, I called this application in to committee meaning it will be heard and debated by Members in a public forum.

It is recognised by the Council that the site is larger than the site allocated in the emerging Local Plan, however, the Council has to assess the application submitted. I will ensure that once we have a date for the Planning Committee that you and your Resident’s Association are properly notified and invited to address the committee. Thank you.”

(During consideration of this item, Councillors Mick Murphy, Rachel Madden and Don Davis left the room at 8.43 p.m., 8.45 p.m. and 8.53 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 8.45 p.m., 8.47 p.m. and 8.55 respectively. Councillor Lachlan Morrison also entered the meeting at 8.53 p.m.)

C.22 Petitions

No petitions were received for consideration.

C.23 Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

Council approval was sought to extend and vary the existing Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) relating to dog fouling, dog control, alcohol related street drinking, urinating in public places or to be able to move people on as per the variation proposed.

This PSPO came into effect on 1st October, 2015 and without formal extension will expire on 30th September, 2018.

RESOLVED

that approval be given to the extension and variation of the existing Public Spaces Protection Order, as set out in the drafted Order following the period of consultation, to commence from 1st October, 2018.

Reasons:

1. In line with Section 60, Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, a PSPO may not have effect for a period of more than 3 years unless extended. The existing PSPO, enacted 1st October, 2015, relating to a number of dog-related issues, alcohol and urinating will expire on 30th September, 2018 unless the PSPO is formally extended following due process. Evidence has been gathered to support the continued need for the order and public consultation largely supports the Order.
2. Extending the PSPO ensures that the Council and Police can take suitable action including issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for these types of issues.

C.24 Aldermen and Alderwomen Policy

Council was requested to consider the introduction of a policy to appoint Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen.

RESOLVED

that it be agreed not to adopt or introduce the Policy for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen, as attached to the report, at this present time.

Reason:

Notwithstanding that the appointment of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen is a means of giving recognition to former Councillors of Ashfield District Council who in the opinion of the Council have rendered eminent service to the Council and the District, the costs associated with the initiative be deemed to be too excessive at this current time.

C.25 Recommendations from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees

In accordance with the Council Procedure Rule 2(ix), Council considered the following recommendations:-

Minute No. CO.4
Chief Officers' Employment Committee – 8th June, 2018
Interviews for the post of Corporate Finance Manager (and Section 151 Officer)

(During consideration of this recommendation, the Council's Interim Finance Manager (and Section 151 Officer) left the room whilst discussion and voting took place.)

RESOLVED

that Peter Hudson be appointed to the post of Corporate Finance Manager (and Section 151 Officer).

Minute No. CA.5
Cabinet – 14th June, 2018
General Fund, HRA and Capital Out-turn 2017/18

RESOLVED that

- a) the allocation of up to a maximum of £443k of earmarked funding, initially from the Revenue Technology Investment Reserve to fund the Finance System upgrade and the replacement Income System (year 1 costs), be approved;
- b) the use of £172k of the £342k 2017/18 General Fund underspend, to meet additional service review costs in 2018/19, be approved.

Minute No. CC.4
Charities Committee – 16th July, 2018
Sutton in Ashfield Recreation Grounds 2006 Charitable Trust

The item was withdrawn from the agenda to be resubmitted to the next available meeting.

C.26 Section 100A Local Government Act, 1972;
Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED

that in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting during the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, in respect of which the Proper Officer considers the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

C.27 Recommendations from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees;
(Exempt by virtue of Paragraph 3)

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2(ix) Council considered the following recommendations:-

Minute No. CA.12
Cabinet – 14th June, 2018
Corporate Finance System – Upgrade

RESOLVED

that in accordance with Financial Regulations the allocation of funding to progress the upgrade of the Corporate Finance System, on the terms as detailed in the report, be approved.

Minute No. CA.13
Cabinet 14th June, 2018
Payment and Income Management System

RESOLVED

that the funding for upfront implementation costs, annual maintenance costs and support to award a contract to the successful Tenderer for the Payment and Income Management System, on the terms as detailed in the report, be approved.

C.28 Notices of Motion

Due to the lateness of hour and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 23.1, the notices of motion stand adjourned to be considered at the next available meeting of the Council.

C.29 Questions received from Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.3 and the fact that there was insufficient time for any questions to be asked, all responses would be duly provided to Members in writing.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Chairman.

COUNCIL

Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield,

on Thursday, 6th September, 2018 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Tony Brewer in the Chair;

Councillors Lee Anderson, Chris Baron, Rachel Bissett, Amanda Brown, Tim Brown, Cheryl Butler, Joanne Donnelly, David Griffiths, Helen Hollis, Tom Hollis, Jackie James, Rachel Madden, Cathy Mason, Lauren Mitchell, Keir Morrison, Lachlan Morrison, Mick Murphy, Nicolle Ndiweni, Paul Roberts, Kevin Rostance, Phil Rostance, Robert Sears-Piccavey, Helen-Ann Smith, Mike Smith, John Wilmott, Sam Wilson and Jason Zadrozny.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Jim Aspinall, Steve Carroll, Christian Chapman, Don Davis, John Knight, Glenys Maxwell and Christine Quinn-Wilcox.

Officers Present: Lynn Cain, Ruth Dennis, Peter Hudson, Mike Joy, Robert Mitchell and Paul Parkinson.

C.30 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

C.31 Notice of Motion

The Council received a notice of motion moved by Councillor Cheryl Butler and seconded by Councillor Nicolle Ndiweni as follows:-

“Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 1972 provides that if a Member of a Local Authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his/her last attendance to attend any meeting of the Authority, he/she shall cease to be a Member of the Authority unless the failure is due to some reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period.

We are all aware that the Member for St Mary’s Ward has been ill, however he continues to make progress and is eager to return as soon as possible. During his absence, his ward has not been neglected, as a number of Labour Councillors have picked up any case work necessary, and they will continue to do so until he is able to return.

Historically, this Council has been generous and magnanimous in allowing any Member, who has a long term illness, to have periods of sustained absence.

Therefore this Council

- 1. Approves, for the purposes of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, the continued absence of the Member for St Marys Ward, from meetings of the Authority and that this be extended for a period of approximately 6 months until 5th April, 2019, (effective from the 5th October 2018).*
- 2. Forwards its best wishes onto the St Mary's Ward Member."*

Councillor Jason Zadrozny moved an amendment to the motion, seconded by Councillor Lee Anderson, in the following terms:-

"Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 1972 provides that if a Member of a Local Authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his/her last attendance to attend any meeting of the Authority, he/she shall cease to be a Member of the Authority unless the failure is due to some reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period."

This Administration condemns the actions of the current Labour MP for Ashfield, Gloria De Piero for contacting Councillor Aspinall at his Care Home and demanding he stood down. This Administration regrets this type of intimidation which flies in the face of the long standing Council tradition of allowing any Member, who has a long term illness, to have sustained periods of absence.

This Administration further regrets leaflets that have been produced by Ashfield Labour Party in the St Mary's Ward of Ashfield District Council calling for 'change' and stating 'It's time for a fresh start.'

This Administration apologises unreservedly to Councillor Aspinall for this behaviour.

Therefore this Council

- 1. Approves, for the purposes of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, the continued absence of the Member for St Mary's Ward, from meetings of the Authority and that this be extended for a period of approximately 6 months until 5th April, 2019, (effective from the 5th October 2018).*
- 2. Forwards its best wishes onto the ward Member for St Mary's."*

The meeting was adjourned at 7.10 p.m. to enable Members to consider the amendment. The meeting reconvened at 7.25 p.m.

Having been fully considered, the amended motion was put to the vote and carried, thus becoming the substantive motion.

The meeting was again adjourned at 7.42 p.m. and reconvened at 7.47 p.m.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED that

- a) for the purposes of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, approval be given for the continued absence of the Member for St Mary's Ward from meetings of the Authority until 5th April, 2019 (effective from the 5th October 2018);
- b) the Council's best wishes are forwarded onto the St Mary's Ward Member.

(During consideration of this item, Councillor Keir Morrison left the room at 7.40 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 7.42 p.m.)

C.32 Ashfield Local Plan Update and Options Appraisal

Council was requested to note the update in relation to the Emerging Ashfield Local Plan and consider options for its future direction.

At this point in the proceedings and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 30.1, it was moved and seconded that Council Procedure Rule 16.4 (Content and Length of Speeches) be suspended for the duration of the item to enable Members to speak for up to 8 minutes instead of the prescribed 5 minutes. Having been put to the vote, the proposal was duly carried.

RESOLVED that

- a) the updated position in relation to the Emerging Ashfield Local Plan, be received and noted;
- b) it be agreed that the Council withdraw the Emerging Local Plan and commence development of a new Local Plan immediately.

Reasons:

1. The Emerging Local Plan does not fit with the new political administration's economic growth ambitions and vision for the District.
2. The new political administration's ambition is to revisit the strategic underpinning of the Local Plan. The vision of the new political administration is for a sustainable and ambitious plan which is fresh, creative and robust bringing the greatest socio-economic benefit to the District of Ashfield.
3. The ambition includes taking into account changes in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which are not currently embedded within the Emerging Local Plan.
4. The Emerging Local Plan Vision has a restrictive focus of concentrating development in and adjoining the urban and settlement areas, i.e. urban concentration. However, this is not ambitious enough to reflect the wider economic aspirations of both Government and the new Council Leadership.

5. The new Local Plan Vision will revisit the parameters of the withdrawn Local Plan, and reconsider issues such as the most suitable and sustainable locations for employment growth and housing allocations with the underpinning strategy of the Local Plan, to review future infrastructure requirements and to make the most of locational advantages such as Junctions 27 and 28 of the M1 motorway.

(During consideration of this item, Councillors Lachlan Morrison and Cathy Mason left the room at 8.02 p.m. and 8.05 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 8.05 p.m. and 8.07 p.m. respectively.)

C.33 Recommendation from the Council's Committees

Council considered a recommendation arising from the Charities Committee meeting held on 16th July, 2018.

Minute No. CC.4

Sutton in Ashfield Recreation Grounds 2006 Charitable Trust

RESOLVED

that Mr. Roger Pratt be appointed by Deed as an additional independent Trustee to the Sutton in Ashfield Recreation Grounds 2006 Charitable Trust.

C.34 Appointment to Outside Body

RESOLVED

that Councillor Helen Hollis be appointed as the Council's representative to the Patient and Public Engagement Committee (NHS Mansfield and Ashfield Clinical Commissioning Group) for the term ending 31st May, 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Chairman.

Meeting of the Council
11th October, 2018
Schedule of Recommendations

N.B.

The Schedule sets out recommendations from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees upon which Council is required to reach a decision. During discussion of these items Council Procedure Rule 16 applies (Rules of Debate). Speeches must be relevant to the item being debated. Speeches do not have to be in the form of, or include a question. Members may speak for up to 5 minutes. The Chairman may allow a further 2 minutes at his/her discretion. A Member may only speak once on a motion but may also speak once on an amendment.

<u>Meeting:</u>	<u>Minute No:</u>	<u>Subject:</u>	<u>Recommendation(s):</u>
Cabinet 10th September, 2018	CA.31	<u>Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy</u>	Council is recommended to approve the 'Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy, as appended to the Cabinet report. (Report attached at Appendix 1)
Cabinet, 1st October, 2018	CA.38	<u>Local Government Reorganisation</u>	Council be recommended to formally support the Cabinet's position in opposing Nottinghamshire County Council's proposals for a Local Government Reorganisation including a Unitary Council for Nottinghamshire. (Report attached at Appendix 2)

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Report To:	CABINET	Date:	10TH SEPTEMBER 2018
Heading:	FLEXIBLE USE OF CAPITAL RECEIPTS STRATEGY		
Portfolio Holder:	COUNCILLOR ROBERT SEARS-PICCAVEY – CABINET MEMBER (INWARD)		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	YES		
Subject to Call-In:	YES		

Purpose of Report

This report seeks Cabinet support for the adoption of a 'Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy' (Appendix 1) and to recommend this to Council.

Recommendation(s)

Support the adoption of the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy at Appendix 1 and recommend its approval to Council.

Subject to support and subsequent approval by Council, notify the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) of the adoption of the Strategy.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

Implementing a strategy in respect of the use of Capital Receipts in accordance with the Statutory Guidance provided by the Secretary of State in March 2016 and updated in February 2018 will provide the Council with the flexibility of determining, subject to in-year General Fund capital receipts being available, how transformation activity in the Council is funded. Implementation of this strategy will provide options for preserving revenue funds.

Alternative Options Considered

(with reasons why not adopted)

To not take advantage of the Government's guidance around implementing a strategy for the flexible use of Capital Receipts. This was discounted as having a Strategy provides the flexibility around the

use of these funds and gives the Council the power of choice. Not having the Strategy removes this power and flexibility.

Detailed Information

The Secretary of State issued guidance and a Direction under section 15 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 2003, effective from 1st April 2016 in respect of the 'Flexible use of Capital Receipts' and subsequently issued a further Direction under the same Act in February 2018 – Sections 16(2)(b) and 20.

The guidance is applicable to the financial year 2016/17 and each subsequent financial year to which the flexible use of capital receipts Direction applies. The current guidance and Direction covers the period up to financial year 2021/22.

The Direction makes it clear that local authorities cannot borrow to finance the revenue costs of service reform. Local Authorities can only use capital receipts from the disposal of property, plant and equipment assets received in the years in which the flexibility is offered. Local authorities may not use their existing stock of capital receipts to finance revenue costs of service reform.

The Secretary of State has said that individual authorities are best placed to decide which projects will be most effective in their areas but a key criterion to use when deciding whether expenditure can be funded by capital receipts flexibility is that it is forecast to generate ongoing savings for the authority. The Council's Digital Transformation Strategy meets this key criterion.

Authorities are required to demonstrate the highest standards of accountability and transparency and should disclose to full Council the individual projects that will be funded or part funded through capital receipts flexibility.

It is a requirement to notify the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) of the Strategy and any updates to the Strategy. This is to allow central Government to keep track of planned use of the flexibility for national accounts purposes.

The guidance and Direction do not exempt local authorities from any other obligations, for example in relation to Right to Buy receipts.

Clearly the extent to which the flexibilities can be applied is driven by the value of capital receipts received in year.

The initial Strategy and any further revisions to the Strategy will, in accordance with the guidance, be made available on-line.

Implications

Corporate Plan: Use of capital receipts flexibilities will support service transformation and deliver priorities in the Corporate Plan.

Legal:

The relevant legislation is detailed in the body of the report.

Article 4 (4.01) reserves the approval of the budgetary framework to the Council.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	No direct implication. The Strategy provides potential scope to reduce revenue expenditure.
General Fund – Capital Programme	No direct implication. The Strategy provides scope to utilise General Fund Capital Receipts for transformation purposes.
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	Not applicable
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	Not applicable

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Not implementing the strategy may place further pressure on revenue resources.	Any additional pressure would have to be managed through tighter in-year financial monitoring/decision making by Members.

Human Resources:

No impact

Equalities:

No impact

Other Implications:

No impact

Reason(s) for Urgency

(if applicable)

Reason(s) for Exemption

(if applicable)

Background Papers

DCLG – Statutory Guidance on the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts (updated) – March 2016
 MHCLG Letter to Chief Finance Officers – Local Government Act 2003 Sections 16(2)(b) and 20: Treatment of Costs as Capital Expenditure – 6th February 2018

Report Author and Contact Officer

Pete Hudson
 Corporate Finance Manager & Section 151 Officer
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Ashfield District Council

Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy

1. Qualifying Expenditure

Qualifying expenditure is expenditure on any project that is designed to generate ongoing revenue savings in the delivery of public services and/or transform service delivery to reduce costs and/or transform service delivery in a way that reduces the costs or demand for services in future years for any of the public sector delivery partners. Within this definition it is for individual local authorities to decide whether or not a project qualifies for the flexibility.

Set up and implementation costs of any new processes or arrangements can be classified as qualifying expenditure. The ongoing revenue costs of the new processes or arrangements cannot be classed as qualifying expenditure.

2. Ashfield District Council – Proposed use of Capital Receipts Flexibility

In accordance with the above definition Ashfield's Strategy is such that when it utilises the flexibility it will be in support of delivering the Council's Digital Transformation Strategy. Details of expected savings/service transformation are contained within the Strategy. This Strategy includes but is not limited to:

- Implementation of a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) solution
- Improved functionality of the Payments Solution (improved accessibility for customers)
- Implementation of an on-line Service Booking System
- Implementation of a telephone system upgrade (to better understand customer demand)
- Replace the Environment Health system
- Upgrade and implement new functionality to the Finance system
- Implement a Revenues Portal (Council Tax and Housing Benefits)
- Implement the Total Mobile Housing solution (to enable Officers to remotely access information whilst on-site and allow dynamic scheduling of work).

The nature of costs may include some/all of the following:

- Feasibility work
- Costs of restructuring/rationalisation (staff or non-staff)
- System and process improvements
- Staff training (following new system implementation/system upgrades)
- Setting up commercial or alternative delivery models to deliver services more efficiently and bring in revenue

The Council will also consider the use of this flexibility in regards to specific transformation projects that meet the qualifying criteria. In such circumstances the qualifying criteria and how they are met by the project spend will be documented.

3. Capital Receipts Strategy Updates

Any revision to this Strategy, i.e. proposed use of Capital Receipts for purposes other than the above, will be reported through to Cabinet and Council at the appropriate time in the relevant financial year. Any revision to the Strategy will also consider whether it is necessary to amend the Prudential Indicators at the same time. If the Council presents a revised Strategy during the year it will be copied to MHCLG.

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Report To:	CABINET	Date:	1st OCTOBER 2018
Heading:	LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION		
Portfolio Holder:	COUNCILLOR JASON ZADRONZY – LEADER OF THE COUNCIL		
Ward/s:	ALL WARDS		
Key Decision:	YES		
Subject to Call-In:	YES		

Purpose of Report

To outline the background, implications and response to date from this Council to Nottinghamshire County Council's approved motion to develop a formal case for Local Government Reorganisation, specifically a unitary Council for Nottinghamshire and to agree recommendations for resolution by Council.

Recommendation(s)

For resolution by Council

Council is recommended to formally support the Cabinet position and to oppose Nottinghamshire County Council proposals for Local Government Reorganisation including a unitary Council for Nottinghamshire

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

To reinforce the Council's opposition to Nottinghamshire County Council's proposal for Local Government Reorganisation including a unitary Council for Nottinghamshire.

Alternative Options Considered

To support the County Council's Local Government Reorganisation proposals.

To await the outcome of the Business Case being prepared by the County Council before formally indicating the Council's position.

Both alternatives have not been recommended as the Executive has already informally indicated its preferred approach.

Detailed Information

Background

Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC), at their Full Council meeting on 12 July 2018, agreed a motion which instructed officers 'to continue their work preparing a formal case for a unitary authority (for Nottinghamshire) and to bring forward a report to a future meeting of Full Council setting out the business case (case for change)'. Statements given in support of the motion for a unitary authority included:

- release approximately £20-30m of public money
- achieve economies of scale and deliver a more responsive service by
 - rationalisation of headquarters, chief executives and management teams
 - bring all council services under one roof removing duplication and requiring fewer buildings
 - remove confusion caused by 'two-tier' local government
 - establish single systems for council tax collection, waste management, housing and planning
 - provide proactive solution to budget challenges thereby protecting critical services, potentially avoiding steep and prolonged increases in council tax and other charges

Nottinghamshire County Council's Policy Committee on 12 September 2018 agreed:

- To approve funding of up to £270k for external support towards the preparation of the case for change involving independent validation of financial data and a two phased approach to stakeholder engagement and community consultation.
- a provisional timetable to develop a case for change:

September-November 2018	Case for change development and phase 1 engagement
December 2018	Report to Full Council on the provisional case for change and public consultation
Jan-March 2019	Phase 2 formal public consultation
May 2019	Report to Full Council on final case for change

Unitary Council for Nottinghamshire - what does this mean?

The County Council and all 7 district authorities including Ashfield will be dissolved and replaced with a new single unitary authority. All services currently provided within the two-tier structure will be provided by the one unitary authority.

Nottingham City Council will remain though the Leader of the City Council has publically stated that if a proposal for a unitary authority for Nottinghamshire is submitted the City Council will consider their own alternative Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) proposal that would look to incorporate Gedling and Broxtowe within an expanded City boundary with a request for a future boundary review to incorporate additional areas, potentially including Hucknall.

Procedure for creation of a unitary Council/Local Government Reorganisation proposal

The procedure for creation of a unitary authority or alternative Local Government Reorganisation models falls within the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. A single or group of authorities could be invited by the Secretary of State to present proposals or a proposal could be submitted by a single body such as Nottinghamshire County Council, City Council or Ashfield District Council or a group of district authorities. Submission of a proposal does not mean automatic acceptance as it requires a process to be followed and Secretary of State advised criteria to be met. Recent and current Local Government Reorganisation proposals nationally e.g. Dorset and Northamptonshire indicate that the advised criteria are likely to involve:

- improve service delivery
- giving greater value for money and generate savings
- provide stronger strategic and local leadership
- command a good deal of local support across the whole area of the proposal
- having a substantial population in excess of 300000 (and less than 700000 as per Dorset)

Perceived Benefits and Disbenefits of Local Government Reorganisation/Unitary Authorities

Research based on the implementation of unitary authorities nationally has outlined perceived benefits and disbenefits from the creation of unitary authority, including:

Benefits:

- savings on overheads, duplication and rationalisation of senior management, elected members and buildings - generate one-off capital receipts
- better value for money through economies of scale
- county wide strategic approach to planning and housing
- better alignment to coterminous boundaries of Police and clinical commission groups
- one single point of contact for residents for services
- harmonise council tax across the unitary area
- increased sustainability of services/greater financial resilience
- partnerships offering parish and town councils opportunities to take on more services
- increased synergies and joined up working e.g. waste management and recycling

Disbenefits:

- no guarantee of improvements in performance, cost and efficiency
- savings fail to materialise and/or unable to quantify savings as solely due to Local Government Reorganisation through need to filter in general efficiency savings generated anyway by respective authorities
- examples of unitary authorities having to make service cuts
- significant costs of reorganisation and transitional set up costs - drain on resources
- resources may be prioritised to key areas e.g. adult social care to detriment of other front line local services
- significant disruption caused pre and lead into transitional period of implementing the new authority
- Local Government Reorganisation supersedes redesign opportunities such as shared services, shared procurement and shared management.
- Distraction from core purposes of service provision - performance deterioration

- Paucity of evidence base on benefits of a unitary authority on service delivery, customer satisfaction and value for money
- Negative impact on local democracy
- Loss of local responsiveness of district authorities and services
- Creates an alternative layer of governance at local level such as Area Boards
- Area Boards limited in executive powers
- Lose local council tax accountability
- Council tax harmonisation - winners and losers
- Evidence of parish and town council precepts significantly increasing as services are pushed down
- Decisions made centrally and remote from local area
- Co-location uncertainty
- Parishes currently have uncapped precepts
- Remoteness of county wide strategic approach to planning and housing.

Response from Ashfield District Council

The Leader of the Council has written both independently and jointly (with Leaders from Bassetlaw and Gedling and the Elected Mayor of Mansfield) to the NCC Leader and to the Secretary of State stating opposition to a unitary council for Nottinghamshire on the following grounds:

- NCC's preferred model will not meet the governments test on size (exceeds 700,000 population)
- It does not have local consensus
- It does not have wide spread District or Nottingham City support
- Exclusion and lack of robust engagement and consultation with District leaders and officers on the proposal, reviewing alternative options and development of the business case (case for change) in order to challenge or validate the assumptions being made
- Exclusion and lack of robust engagement and consultation with District leaders and officers on the proposed stakeholder engagement and community consultation approach and process
- Lack of a robust evidence base to support the preferred model
- The proposed NCC business case will not deal in sufficient depth with the potential negative consequences of Local Government Reorganisation
- A diversion of time and effort that distracts from the joint and critical work on housing and economic growth

The Leader of Ashfield District Council is also a member of the County Council representing Ashfields Division. In that role the Leader has been included in the NCC cross party members working group which has been established to consider the preparation of the case for change. At the only meeting held to date on 6 September, the Leader reinforced his opposition to a unitary authority and challenged the insular approach, the assumptions being made and the lack of an evidence base.

The Leader of the Council has challenged the NCC Leader to hold a cross County referendum to determine community support or not for one unitary council for Nottinghamshire.

To further reinforce the Council's opposition to a unitary council for Nottinghamshire, Cabinet is being requested to endorse recommendations to be submitted to Full Council for consideration.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

OUR PURPOSE

1. The Council exists to serve the communities and residents of Ashfield.
2. We will provide good quality value for money services.
3. We will act strategically and plan for the future, working with others to bring about sustainable improvements in people's lives.

Legal:

The procedure for the creation of a unitary authority or alternative Local Government Reorganisation models falls within the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Not applicable in the context of the recommendation.	

Human Resources:

There are no Human resources implications

Equalities:

There are no equality implications

Other Implications:

(if applicable)

Reason(s) for Urgency

Reason(s) for Exemption

(if applicable)

Background Papers

(if applicable)

Report Author and Contact Officer

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Report To:	COUNCIL	Date:	11TH OCTOBER, 2018
Heading:	MINUTES OF CABINET AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS PUBLISHED SINCE THE LAST ORDINARY MEETING ON 26TH JULY, 2018		
Portfolio Holder:	LEADER, COUNCILLOR JASON ZADROZNY		
Ward/s:	N/A		
Key Decision:	N/A		
Subject To Call-In:	N/A		

Purpose Of Report

To present a list of minutes of Cabinet and Committee meetings which have been published since the last ordinary meeting of the Council and for Members to consider whether they wish to give notice of their intention to ask a question of the relevant Chairman under Council Procedure Rule 13.2.

Background

As part of the 2013 annual review of the Constitution, approved by the Council on 6th June, 2013, the former practice of printing the minutes of Cabinet and Committees within the Council agenda papers was discontinued and replaced with an index that lists the minutes published since the previous meeting of the Council. The index outlined below and the web link enables Members to access the minutes on the Council website for perusal as required (paper copies of minutes are still available to any Member on request).

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.2, Members may give notice of their intention to ask a question of a relevant Chairman in respect of the published minutes. Notice of their questions must be given in writing or by e-mail to the Chief Executive no later than 4.00 p.m. two clear working days before the meeting (i.e. Monday, 8th October, 2018). Questions are limited to a maximum of two per Member.

MINUTES PUBLISHED SINCE 26TH JULY, 2018

The minutes are accessible via the Council website:

[Click here to access documents](#)

Committee Meeting:	Date of Meeting:
Charities Committee	16 th July, 2018

Audit Committee	24 th July, 2018
Planning Committee	25 th July, 2018 16 th August, 2018 20 th September, 2018
Scrutiny Panel A	31 st July, 2018
Chief Officers' Employment Committee	20 th August, 2018
Licensing Committee	6 th September, 2018
Cabinet	10 th September, 2018

Report Author and Contact Officer

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