



Leicester  
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
CABINET

Held: MONDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2004 at 5.00pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Willmott - Chair  
Councillor Draycott - Vice-Chair

Councillor Bhatti  
Councillor Corral

Councillor Getliffe  
Councillor Kitterick

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**122. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were requested to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

No declarations were made.

**COUNCILLOR RAMNIK KAVIA**

The meeting stood for a minutes silence in tribute to the late Councillor Ramnik Kavia.

**123. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader announced that following the election of the Labour administration by full Council on 25 November 2004, portfolios had been allocated as follows:

Councillor Willmott – Leader and Regeneration and Property  
Councillor Draycott – Deputy Leader and Resources  
Councillor Kitterick – Transport  
Councillor Getliffe – Social Care and Health  
Councillor Corral – Neighbourhoods and Environment  
Councillor Bhatti – Housing  
Councillor Waddington – Education  
Councillor Connelly – Leisure

The Leader also announced that it was the intention of the Cabinet to propose six changes to current Council policy:

- 1) reinstate concessionary fares before 9.30am for the elderly, disabled and unemployed by Spring 2005,
- 2) removal of charges for public conveniences by Christmas 2004,
- 3) reinstate community transport provision,
- 4) removal of the charge for admission to the Guildhall immediately,
- 5) ensure Humberstone Park Café remains open,
- 6) increase the grant to the Urban Regeneration Company by £50,000 per annum, which will be matched by £50,000 each from the East Midlands Development Agency and the English Partnerships.

The Leader asked the Chief Executive for advice regarding whether the six proposals were achievable, and it was reported that in principle arrangements could be made to cover the costs for this financial year, but there would be issues regarding building the costs into the base budget from April 2005 which would need to be worked on.

The Leader also thanked his colleagues and Officers for their work since the full Council meeting.

#### **124. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2004, having been circulated to Members be taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

#### **125. MATTERS REFERRED FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

##### Resources and Equal Opportunities Scrutiny Committee – 11 November 2004

The Committee resolved the following at the above meeting.

- That the Committee requests that Cabinet adopt a policy which respects and upholds the right of free speech in the City, within the bounds of the law, and that any exceptions are agreed cross party, and
- that a further report be submitted to the Committee when a policy on how to deal with applications is proposed.

Councillor Willmott expressed the Cabinet's support for the proposals of Scrutiny, and asked for a report to be submitted to the next meeting of the Cabinet endorsing the right of free speech in the City, and that any exceptions to this should be agreed between all 3 political parties on the Council.

RESOLVED:

That a report be submitted to the next meeting for the Cabinet to endorse the right of free speech in the City.

## Overseas Links Working Party – 28 October 2004

The Working Party resolved the following at the above meeting.

- That clarification be sought from Cabinet about Officers making overseas visits.

Councillor Willmott suggested that these be considered and fed into the budget process for the next financial year.

RESOLVED:

That the comments of the Overseas Links Working Party on the budget be considered and fed into the budget process for the next financial year.

### **126. PRESENTATION ON RISK MANAGEMENT**

This item was withdrawn as most of the Members had already heard the presentation.

### **127. COUNCIL TAX PROGRESS REPORT - HALF YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2004**

Councillor Draycott submitted a report updating the Cabinet on progress made with the collection of local taxes owed to the Council, and the initiatives being deployed by the Housing Department to increase the income to the Authority in respect of Council Tax and Business rate payments for 2004/05 and in future years. Councillor Draycott sought the Cabinet's support for the ongoing and proposed initiatives with the exception of the proposal to change the system of payment dates, which she felt needed further consideration.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the progress to date to collect the charges be noted,
- (2) that, with the exception of the proposed change of payment dates, the initiatives detailed in paragraph 2 of the Supporting Information to increase in year collection rates for 2004/05 be endorsed, as well as the ongoing improvements detailed in paragraph 3 of the Supporting Information, to achieve upper quartile of the National Best Value Performance Indicators within 3 years,
- (3) that the strong enforcement approach, including committal action, to facilitate the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates be supported, and
- (4) that the Corporate Director of Housing be authorised, in

consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, any decision relating to changes in the date of payment collection.

#### **128. WAIVER OF CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES**

Councillor Willmott submitted a report advising Cabinet of waivers to contract procedure rules, approved by the Town Clerk, as required by paragraph 4.2(b) of these rules.

RESOLVED:

That the waivers be noted.

#### **129. NEW WALK MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PLAN**

Councillor Willmott submitted a report seeking Cabinet's support for the 10 year Management and Maintenance Plan for New Walk.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet adopt the Management and Maintenance Plan accompanying the report as the standard to be achieved.

#### **130. BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE**

Councillor Willmott submitted a report advising the Cabinet of the Strategic Business Case (SBC) for the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, the financial implications associated with the Capital Programme and the risks identified and assumptions underlying the proposals, and of the proposed consultation and timescale.

The Cabinet requested that special schools be excluded from the Building Schools for the Future programme, and that further consultation take place with the parents and carers of children attending special schools. It was reported that this would be possible, but that there should be no change in the capital investment bid which would be submitted as part of the programme.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Corporate Director of Education and Lifelong Learning be authorised to undertake stakeholder's consultation around the entire Strategic Business Case (SBC) and with specific regard to the affordability options referred to in section 2 of the report, with the exclusion of special schools from the consultation,
- (2) that the Corporate Director of Education and Lifelong Learning be requested to bring back a report in February 2005 detailing the results of the stakeholder's consultation,

- (3) that the Corporate Director for Education and Lifelong Learning be requested to bring a report to Cabinet in February 2005 seeking approval, subject to consultation, of the SBC for the Building Schools for the Future Programme (BSF) and the Outline Business Case (OBC) for phase 1 schools the SBC and OBC to be considered by the DfES in March for approval of funding,
- (4) to note that at this stage no agreement to go ahead with BSF has been taken, even in principle, a decision on whether to progress will be taken in February, based on the consultation and developing work on programme design, affordability and risk,
- (5) that special schools be removed from the BSF consultation, and that consultation be undertaken with the parents and carers of children at these schools, but that the BSF capital investment bid remain unchanged to retain funding options, and
- (6) that the decision is considered urgent because of the need to move quickly to the consultation phase, so as to ensure that adequate consultation takes place before the final decision is taken in February 2005; and that Cabinet procedure rule 12.d (that no call in may be made if the Cabinet decides when making a decision that the matter is urgent for specified reasons) shall apply.

### **131. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 5.25pm.