



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CABINET

Held: MONDAY, 11 JULY 2005 at 5.00pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor R Blackmore - Chair
Councillor Scuplak - Vice-Chair

Councillor Coley
Councillor Farmer
Councillor Grant

Councillor Gill
Councillor Metcalfe
Councillor Mugglestone

Councillor Suleman

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48. ONE MINUTES' SILENCE

The meeting stood for one minutes' silence in memory of those affected by last Thursday's London terrorist bombs.

49. 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.

Councillor Coley declared a non prejudicial interest in report F 'Youth Justice Plan 2005/06' as his step daughter worked for the Youth Offending Service.

Councillor Farmer declared a non prejudicial interest in report G 'Bowstring Bridge' as he had received representations on the future of the Bridge.

50. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Walk Museum and Art Gallery

The Leader announced that he had attended the launch of the Star Portraits exhibition at the New Walk Museum and encouraged people to attend the exhibition between now and 7 August 2005.

Weddings at the Town Hall

The Leader also announced that up until 9 July, the Town Hall had been the venue of 155 weddings since the relocation of the registration Service from Pocklington's Walk. It was noted that the Victorian Gallery was also available for weddings.

51. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 June 2005, having been circulated to Members, be taken as read and approved as a correct record.

52. MATTERS REFERRED FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Strategic Planning and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee – 22 June 2005

The Committee resolved the following at the above meeting.

Update on Public Sector Relocation (The Lyons Review)

- That Cabinet be requested to set up a cross party working group and include relevant parties such as the Leicester Regeneration Company to look at how the Council should go forward in 'selling' Leicester as a relocation choice for public sector departments.

RESOLVED:

That the referral report be noted and that the Cabinet receive a further report at its meeting on 25 July 2005.

53. SETTING THE STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND BUDGET FOR LIFELONG LEARNING SERVICES FROM 2006/07

Councillor Suleman submitted a report recommending a two stage exercise for achieving a balanced budget for the Lifelong Learning Division in the Education and Lifelong Learning department. The relevant minute extract of the Education and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee held on 7 June 2005 had been circulated.

Councillor Suleman introduced the report and outlined and addressed the key issues which would affect the future direction of the department.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the requirement for the Education Department to achieve a balanced budget in 2005/06 be reaffirmed,
- (2) that further reports be sought on the future direction of the services that are part of the Division as part of the Council

reconfiguration exercise, required by the Children's Act 2004, and

- (3) that Officers be asked to ensure that the proposals for the Division's services in 2006/07 are consistent with the Council's overall priorities and direction, and that these proposals are fully incorporated in the Departmental Revenue Strategies linked to any new service delivery or organisational arrangements.

54. LIFELONG LEARNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - BALANCING THE BUDGET

Councillor Suleman submitted a report making recommendations to balance the budget of the Education Department in 2005/06, and recommended a strategy for balancing the budget in future years. The relevant minute extract from the Education and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee held on 7 July 2005, together with information on the consultation responses received had also been circulated.

Councillor Suleman stated that consultation had taken place across the City with key partners on the 42 proposals which were originally put forward for consideration. It was reported that the recommendations being proposed would have limited impact on frontline services and jobs and would not affect the ability of the department to deliver Learning and Skills Council targets, although this would be monitored.

Councillor Suleman also reported that any underspends in the department would be looked at to restore the funding originally allocated to support capital expenditure in primary schools. Funding for Key Stage 2 would be reprieved, and could be spent. Any funding would be used to raise standards in primary schools generally rather than key stage 2 specifically.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet approve the following and ask Council to approve those recommendations which are outside Cabinet's delegated responsibility:

- (1) that the list of savings identified in appendix 1 of the supporting information be approved, apart from the cessation of the sports and fitness provision subject to:
 - (i) receiving a further report on the application of consistent charging policies for crèches and playgroups, and;
 - (ii) continued monitoring, and if necessary remedial action, by the Department to secure the delivery of key Learning and Skills Council targets.

- (2) that the remaining £1million of savings be sought through the implementation of reviews across the Council as part of the implementation of new departments (such reviews also to consider the most appropriate senior management configurations), and the response to the changed priorities of the Learning and Skills Council,
- (3) that the posts of Premises Facility Manager, Senior Adult Learning Co-ordinator, 3 Curriculum Leaders, Sports Curriculum Leader and the Quality Assurance Officer be frozen, pending proposals arising from (2) above,
- (4) that the deputy Chief Executive be requested to work with 6 'out of school clubs' to submit standard fund applications, with a view to funding this activity from standards fund monies in the future if this is possible as is the case for such activity at other schools (any savings arising contributing to the outstanding funding gap),
- (5) that up to £700,000 of the Education and Lifelong Learning Department's earmarked reserves be used to bridge the budget gap in 2005/06 after allowing for any reserves needed to deal with other budget pressures in the department,
- (6) that £1.1million of monies for investment in primary school Key Stage 2 development (which has been frozen since March) be released to be spent over the next two years, to raise standards in primary schools developed in consultation with Heads and linked to the Strategy for Learning and the Collaborative Network,
- (7) that £0.25 million of monies previously held for investment in primary school capital be released, and the remaining £1 million be set aside to bridge the savings needed in the Lifelong Learning Division, and that it be considered at outturn whether further funding can be released for primary school capital from Education underspends, and that work be done with the Schools' Forum to seek to supplement this with unallocated monies in the schools' block,
- (8) that it be noted that some issues will need to be addressed in the Division that would otherwise have been addressed via the Recovery Plan (some of the options for instance secured savings in circumstances where the status quo was not sustainable, and decisions will still be required). These issues will, however, be taken without the expectation of a contribution to the budget,
- (9) that Officers be asked to put in place an action plan for

these proposals to address any matters that are identified adversely in the equalities assessment process linked to these recommendations, and

- (10) that all related decisions be taken in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning.

55. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT - DEVELOPMENTS

Councillor Blackmore submitted a report informing Cabinet of the outcome and implications of the agreement on the second phase of Local Area Agreements (LAAs).

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the development of a Local Area Agreement as outlined in the report be supported,
- (2) that the outline project plan and management arrangements as set out in paragraph 3 and appendix 1 of the report be endorsed, and
- (3) that further reports be received on detailed arrangements as required.

56. CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY

Councillor Coley submitted a report reviewing progress made towards implementing the Council's Corporate Risk Management Strategy, and sought the agreement of the revised Risk Management Policy contained in the report. The relevant minute extract from the Resources and Equal Opportunities Scrutiny Committee held on 27 June 2005 had been circulated.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Cabinet Member for Finance be nominated as the lead member for Risk Management and to approve the policy and strategy, endorse the work plan and approve the roles and responsibilities as set out in the report, and
- (2) that the proposed changes to the terms of reference be agreed.

57. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2005/06

Councillor Coley declared a non prejudicial interest in the report as his step daughter worked for the service.

Councillor Farmer submitted a report setting out how Youth Justice services

are to be provided in each area and how they are funded by the statutory partners (Social care and Health, Education, Probation and Health).

Councillor Farmer reported that it had been confirmed that the Youth Offending Service was performing in the top third in the Country against its performance indicators, and was the top performing unitary Council in the East Midlands. The Cabinet expressed their thanks to the officers involved in achieving this.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Youth Justice Plan 2005/06 be noted, and its submission be approved retrospectively to the Youth Justice Board by 30 June 2005,
- (2) that the Youth Justice Plan 2005/06 be recommended to Council for retrospective approval,
- (3) that the Corporate Lead for Crime and Disorder talk to the Government Office for East Midlands about linking targets with those in the Local Area Agreements, and
- (4) that Officers be requested to bring forward a report to a future meeting on restorative justice.

58. BOWSTRING BRIDGE

Councillor Farmer declared a non prejudicial interest in the report as he had received representations on the future of the Bridge.

Councillor Coley requested that this item be deferred to allow further consideration of a recently received inquiry from the Director of Great Central Railways.

RESOLVED:

That the item be deferred to the meeting of Cabinet on 25 July 2005.

59. PROJECT MANAGEMENT (IMPROVING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND FOR ADULTS)

Councillor Gill submitted a report describing the project management arrangements for the Chief Executive's proposals for 'Improving Services for Children and Young People and for Adults', and also sought approval for the full costs.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That project management costs be approved up to £240,000 gross, the costs to be funded equally by the

Education and Lifelong Learning Department and the Social Care and Health Department, and

- (2) that under the provisions of Cabinet procedure rule 12d, the decision be considered urgent because of the need to initiate the project so that the new structure could be implemented on 1 April 2006, and therefore that no 'call in' be allowed.

60. VIREMENT RULES - DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS

Councillor Coley submitted a report setting out the position with regard to the delegation of virements from Cabinet to Officers.

RESOLVED:

that the extant resolutions set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report be revoked.

61. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 5.40pm

