



Leicester  
City Council

## **MEETING OF THE CABINET**

**DATE: MONDAY, 24 APRIL 2006**  
**TIME: 5:00 pm**  
**PLACE: COMMITTEE ROOMS 2 & 3, 'B' BLOCK, NEW WALK CENTRE, KING STREET, LEICESTER**

### **Members of the Committee**

Councillor R Blackmore (Chair)  
Councillor Scuplak (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Coley, Farmer, Grant, Gill, Metcalfe, Mugglestone and Suleman

Members of the Cabinet are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed overleaf.

for Town Clerk

### **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

**YOU ARE VERY WELCOME TO ATTEND TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS. HOWEVER, PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING.**

**Officer contact :Frances Wake**  
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## **INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

### **ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND MEETINGS**

You have the right to attend Cabinet to hear decisions being made. You can also attend Scrutiny Committees, as well as meetings of the full Council. You can ask questions and make representations to Scrutiny Committees and Council. You also have the right to see copies of agendas and minutes. Agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website at [www.leicester.gov.uk/cabinet](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/cabinet) or by contacting us as detailed below.

Dates of meetings are available at the Customer Service Centre and on the Website.

There are certain occasions when the Council's meetings may need to discuss issues in private session. The reasons for dealing with matters in private session are set down in law.

### **WHEELCHAIR ACCESS**

The Committee Rooms at New Walk Centre are all accessible to wheelchair users. If wheelchair access is required for Council meetings, which are held at the Town Hall, please contact Charles Poole on 252 7015 or call in at the Customer Service Centre.

### **BRAILLE/AUDIO TAPE**

If there are any particular reports that you would like translating into Braille or providing on audio tape, the Committee Administrator can provide this for you (production times will depend upon equipment/facility availability).

**General Enquiries - if you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact Frances Wake, Committee Services on (0116) 252 6028 or email [Frances.Wake@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Frances.Wake@leicester.gov.uk) or call in at the Customer Service Centre.**

**Press Enquiries - please phone the Communications Unit on 252 6081**

## PUBLIC SESSION

### AGENDA

#### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked 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 applies to them.

#### 2. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2006, have been circulated to Members and the Cabinet is asked to approve them as a correct record.

#### 4. MATTERS REFERRED FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

#### Appendix A

- a) Resources and Equal Opportunities Scrutiny Committee - 6 April 2006

##### **Local Government Reorganisation**

The following was agreed at the above meeting. The full minute extract is attached at Appendix A.

- (1) that the Committee gives its support to the principle of double devolution;
- (2) that a letter be sent from the Committee to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, as a matter of urgency expressing its views with regard to the expansion of the city;
- (3) that the Cabinet be requested to ask officers to develop a body of evidence which would support the expansion of the city which could possibly include the Employment Land Study, the Local Transport Plan and the Housing Needs Survey.

##### **Councillor Blackmore to respond.**

- b) Housing Scrutiny Committee - 6 April 2006

##### **Any Other Business - Integrated Services Review**

The following was agreed at the above meeting.

That the Scrutiny Committee submit the following proposals to Cabinet for its consideration:

That Cabinet, with immediate effect, makes a full review of its decision

to transfer the anti- social behaviour unit from the Housing Department to the Adult and Community Services Department, in view of the fact that Members of the Housing Scrutiny Committee have asked a series of questions in respect of the Unit remaining in the Housing Department. The Housing Scrutiny Committee strongly believe that all aspects of crime and disorder should be contained within the Housing Department on the grounds that over 85% of referrals to the anti-social behaviour come from Housing officers. Furthermore, Members of the Housing Scrutiny Committee were at no point consulted around the transfer of the Unit.

**Councillor Grant to respond.**

**5. UPDATE OF THE 2003 HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT** **Appendix B**

Councillor Metcalfe submits a report advising Cabinet of the increased shortage of affordable housing based on an update of the 2003 Housing Needs Survey. The Cabinet is asked to accept 1,181 as Leicester's net affordable housing requirement.

**The relevant minute extract of the Housing Committee held on 6 April will be circulated as soon as it is available.**

**6. CITY GROWTH STRATEGY** **Appendix C**

Councillor Farmer submits a report which summarises the key findings and actions of the City Growth Strategy and highlights the strategic, operational and financial implications for City Council policies and services of the Strategy. The Cabinet is asked to; welcome the involvement of local businesses in the City Growth Strategy and the shared interest in the development of Leicester; endorse the City Growth Strategy and seek its implementation and co-ordination through the Leicester Economic Action Partnership; commend to private sector partners the role that regulatory services can provide in the development of local enterprise; and agree to work closely with the private sector to attract the resources necessary to increase the economic prosperity of Leicester.

**The relevant minute extract of the Strategic Planning and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 5 April will be circulated as soon as it is available.**

**7. CHILDREN'S CENTRES PHASE 2 PLANNING PRIORITIES (2006-08)** **Appendix D**

Councillor Suleman submits a report which outlines proposals for the extension of Children's Centres and seeking agreement from Cabinet with regard to issues in relation to the establishment of a further 8 main centres between 2006-2008.

**The relevant minute extract of the Education and Lifelong Learning**

**Scrutiny Committee on 13 April will be circulated as soon as it is available.**

**8. FESTIVALS AND EVENTS STRATEGY 3 YEAR PROGRAMME: 2006/07 - 2008/09 Appendix E**

Councillor Mugglestone submits a report seeking approval to a 3 year programme for existing festivals and events following the approval of the City Council's budget for 2006/07 and application of the agreed criteria for future financial support to festivals and events.

**The relevant minute extract of the Arts, Leisure and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 12 April will be circulated as soon as it is available.**

**9. ECO MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT SCHEME Appendix F**

Councillor Mugglestone submits a report outlining progress towards the corporate environmental improvement targets and presenting the draft text of the eighth EMAS public statement and proposed actions for inclusion in the 2006/07 action programme. The Cabinet is asked to agree the proposals.

**The full appendices are deposited for Members in the Group Rooms in the Members Area. They can also be accessed via the City Council website: [www.leicester.gov.uk/cabinet](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/cabinet) or by contacting Carol Brass/Anna Dodd on Tel No. 252 6732 or email: [carol.brass@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:carol.brass@leicester.gov.uk).**

**10. DEVELOPING AN ANIMAL FRIENDLY PURCHASING POLICY Appendix G**

Councillor Blackmore submits a report introducing a report from the Member led Animal Friendly Working Group which asks Cabinet to agree a way forward for a new policy framework to help the Council become a more animal friendly organisation.

**The relevant minute extract of the Resources and Equal Opportunities Scrutiny Committee on 6 April will be circulated as soon as it is available.**

**11. EFFICIENCY REVIEW OF PROPERTY Appendix H**

Councillor Coley submits a report which informs Cabinet of the progress of the Review of Centrally Located Admin Buildings and seeking a decision on which strategic option should be followed.

**The relevant minute extract of the Resources and Equal Opportunities Scrutiny Committee on 6 April will be circulated as soon as it is available.**

**12. TWINNING WITH HASKOVO Appendix I**

Councillor Farmer submits a report which asks Cabinet to recommend to Council a formal twinning relationship with Haskovo, Bulgaria.

**The minutes of the Overseas Links Working Party on 15 March 2006 are attached to the report.**

**13. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS OF HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S SERVICE DIRECTORS Appendix J**

Councillor Metcalfe submits a report seeking Cabinet's approval to the outcome of the review of the organisational structure and functions of the Housing Department.

**14. FEES FOR LICENSING OF HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION Appendix K**

Councillor Mugglestone submits a report asking Cabinet to agree a fees and charging mechanism to be applied to the licensing of houses in multiple occupation.

**15. EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY - COMPULSORY PURCHASE OF 37 HOLYWELL ROAD Appendix L**

Councillor Metcalfe submits a report proposing that a Compulsory Purchase Order is sought on the above property under the City Council's Empty Homes Strategy.

**Members are asked to note that as part of this report, financial information relating to the property is attached. These papers are marked 'NOT FOR PUBLICATION'. The information in these papers is exempt as defined in paragraphs 1-3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended and it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. The information therefore must not be disclosed or discussed at the meeting. Should Members wish to refer to any of these details it is recommended that the meeting move into private session.**

**16. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

The Leader has agreed to accept an Item of Urgent Business onto the agenda, 'Waste Management Regulations Update'. The reason for urgency is to meet the consultation response deadline of 2 May. The report wasn't included with the main agenda despatch as not all relevant information was available. It is anticipated that the report will be recommended for consideration on the private agenda.

