



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CABINET

Held: MONDAY, 30 JANUARY 2006 at 5.00pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor R Blackmore - Chair
Councillor Scuplak - Vice-Chair

Councillor Coley Councillor Gill
Councillor Grant

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206. 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 Act applied to them.

No interests were declared.

207. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Game Exhibition - New Walk Museum

The Leader announced the above exhibition which was currently running at New Walk Museum.

Anniversaries

The Leader announced that this year was the 40th anniversary of the Jewry Wall Museum and the 80th anniversary of the Guildhall Museum.

208. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meetings held on 9 and 24 January, having been circulated to Members, be taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

209. MATTERS REFERRED FROM COMMITTEES

There were no matters referred.

210. ADULT LEARNING STRATEGIC OPTIONS CONSULTATION

Councillor Blackmore submitted a report which presented the findings of the recent external consultation exercise on Strategic Options for Adult Learning, undertaken by TRIBAL Education Consultancy. The Cabinet was asked to decide on a preferred option for the future of Adult Learning.

The relevant minutes of the Education and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee on 23 January had been circulated to the Cabinet and their preferred option noted.

Officers reassured Cabinet that the writing school at Leicester Adult Education College could be maintained under the proposed new arrangement.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that option (d) be progressed as the most viable option for the future arrangements for the provision of Adult Learning
- (2) that the Corporate Director, Education and Lifelong Learning, be authorised to carry out detailed design work on the preferred option
- (3) that a further report be submitted to Cabinet on 24 April, to consider and approve the detailed proposal for a new Adult Learning structure, to include full detailed legal, financial and Human Resources implications of the proposal; and
- (4) that the local authority, in addition, commits itself to exploring, with local communities, including the Lifelong Learning Forum, learners and other stakeholders, appropriate forms of lay governance for the newly configured Adult Learning Service.

211. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT: PROGRESS REPORT AND NEXT STEPS

Councillor Blackmore submitted a report outlining progress made in the development of Leicester's first Local Area Agreement and setting out the next steps in the negotiations.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that progress to date in developing Leicester's first Local Area Agreement be noted
- (2) that the Corporate Director of Housing be authorised in consultation with the Service Director - Legal Services and the Leader of the Council, to approve any changes or additions to the agreement prior to final submission to the Government Office East Midlands; and
- (3) that the Leader of the Council be authorised to sign any

necessary agreement on behalf of the City Council, if required by the Government Office.

212. MEMBER INVOLVEMENT IN OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Councillor Coley submitted a report which set out proposals to devolve responsibility for certain human resources appeals processes from elected members to senior officers.

The relevant minute of the Resources and Equal Opportunities Scrutiny Committee on 22 September had been circulated to Cabinet and their concerns noted.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That appeals, presently heard by elected Members under the City Council's Disciplinary, Attendance Management, Capability, and Harassment and Discrimination Procedures, be heard by 2 service directors outside the disciplining department and otherwise as set out in Section 5 of the report
- (2) That individual Grievance appeals, relating to the interpretation or application of one of the Schemes of conditions of service, be heard by senior officers, as set out in Section 5 of the report
- (3) That appropriate notice of these changes be given to the workforce, prior to implementation
- (4) That Guidelines for Managers be issued to ensure consistency across the Council throughout the Appeals process
- (5) That the Council be recommended to amend the scheme of delegation accordingly
- (6) That the proposed appeal arrangements be reviewed within one year after implementation; and
- (7) that a further report be submitted in six months detailing the number of appeals lodged, identified by service department and indicating the outcomes, whether submitted to tribunal (and the outcome) and the period between lodging the appeal and the outcome.

213. SCHEME OF DELEGATION: REVIEW OF DECISIONS MADE AT CORPORATE DIRECTOR LEVEL

Councillor Coley submitted a report which provided Cabinet with a routine

quarterly summary of decisions made at Corporate Director level in consultation with Cabinet Leads.

RESOLVED:

that the summary of decisions made at Corporate Director level in consultation with Cabinet Leads during the period October to December, 2005, as summarised in Appendix A to the report be noted.

214. CORPORATE REVIEW OF SERVICE DIRECTORS AND INTEGRATED SERVICES PROGRAMME

Councillor Grant submitted a report setting out for Cabinet's approval, proposals and recommendations for a timetable to implement the structural changes at Corporate level for Service Directors.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that it be noted that the proposed timetable is in line with the Council's policy and procedural framework for implementing service reviews 'Protocol for Organisational and Staffing Change'
- (2) that the proposed timetable and the sequence of meetings required for compliance be approved; and
- (3) that the role of the Employee Committees, which will meet for the purpose of dealing with any appointments, transfers between Departments, dismissals and retirements, be noted.

215. PRIVATE SESSION

RESOLVED:

that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following reports in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, because they involve the likely disclosure of 'exempt' information, as defined in the Paragraphs detailed below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act."

Paragraph 9

Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

NEW BUSINESS QUARTER

LAND AT FORMER BARKBY ROAD ALLOTMENT SITE

216. NEW BUSINESS QUARTER

Councillor Scuplak submitted a report on proposals for the future development of the New Business Quarter.

The relevant minute of the Strategic Planning and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 25 January had been circulated to the Cabinet and their comments noted.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the vision for the New Business Quarter and the work undertaken to date by the Leicester Regeneration Company (LRC) be noted and that the scheme be supported in principle, subject to the Council's costs and risks being appropriately guaranteed
- (2) that the proposed delivery mechanism and project management arrangements be approved in principle
- (3) that the aspirations of the LRC and Emda be noted and approval given for the City Council to undertake the role of an accountable body for Emda grant funding of in excess of £10m in respect of public realm improvements.
- (4) that the potential use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers to facilitate the delivery of the scheme, in the event a scheme goes ahead and in accordance with planning policy statements and guidance for the development of the New Business Quarter, as approved by Cabinet in December 2004, be noted; and
- (5) that the Council's role as accountable body for the Emda grant and the use of CPO powers be supported in principle subject to the funding and risks being appropriately covered.

217. LAND AT FORMER BARKBY ROAD ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Coley submitted a report.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Corporate Director of Resources, Access and Diversity, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Resources, Access and Diversity, be authorised:
 - (i) To agree terms to grant a lease of a site comprising approximately 1.5 acres (0.6 ha), as detailed in the report

- (ii) To agree terms to dispose of the freehold interest in the remaining area of the site, as detailed in the report, on a one to one basis to Companies relocating from the LRC key intervention areas.
- (2) that the Head of Legal Services be authorised to prepare and execute all the necessary documentation required to let/dispose of this area of land.

218. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 5.35pm.

