



Leicester  
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
CABINET

Held: MONDAY, 24 OCTOBER 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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**118. 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 declarations were made.

**119. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Asian Earthquake

Councillor Blackmore extended sympathy to the victims of the Asian Earthquake and their families and in particular those families in the City who had been affected by the tragedy. He noted that the Council had facilitated financial support for the victims via the City Council website.

Library Information Service

Councillor Blackmore reported that last week he had launched a new online 24 hour enquiry service at the Reference and Information Library. The new service was called 'Enquire' and would give the public round the clock online access to library and information staff. He noted it was an innovative move which had involved co-operation with international partners in the US and Canada. The service provided answers to questions in real time and was available free either via a live chat link or by email. He noted that a link to the service was included in the Events section of the Libraries web page.

Long Service Awards to Employees

The Leader reported that a report would be received by the Cabinet at its next

meeting which would deal with rewards for long serving employees. He noted that the new policy would reward employees as they reached 25 and 35 years service, as well as provide a token gift when they retire. He looked forward to approving proposals at the next meeting.

#### Empty/Unused Buildings

The Leader reported that as part of Council policy to bring empty/unused buildings back into use, he wished to report the following, which were amongst the results since 2003:-

Former Mary Linwood Secondary School	-	New Academy
Western Park House	-	Conversion to residential
City Rooms	-	Hotel/Restaurant
Former Running Fox Pub, Hastings Rd.		Sold – refurbished for community use
Former Avalon Centre, Duxbury Rd.	-	Community Centre
Former Toilets, Yeoman Street	-	Restaurant/Café
Former Toilets, Calais Hill	-	Residential
Former Toilets, Narborough Road	-	Take Away
Former Social Services Office, 32/34 The Fairway-		Residential
62/64 New Walk + 83/87 Wellington Street		-Residential
Saffron Hill Cemetery Lodge		-Residential
8 Bowling Green Street (former Water Board offices, empty 8 years)	-	Residential/Commercial

## **120. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **RESOLVED:**

that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September, having been circulated to Members, be taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

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

- a) Health Scrutiny Committee - 22 September 2005

The Committee resolved the following at the above meeting:-

### **UK Influenza Pandemic – Potential Implications**

“RESOLVED:

That the report and the comments of the Health Scrutiny Committee be referred to Cabinet for consideration”.

Councillor Gill submitted a report updating the Cabinet on issues relating to a potential influenza pandemic. He introduced Dr Stephen Whitehead, the Director of Public Health for the City, who gave a short presentation on the facts concerning the potential epidemic and precautions and preparation strategies.

Following Members questions, Councillor Gill thanked Dr Whitehead for his presentation.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Health Scrutiny Committee be thanked for drawing this matter to the attention of the Cabinet and officers be requested to take into account the views expressed by the Committee in the further development of pandemic flu plans including those at a multi-agency level;
- (2) that officers be asked to liaise with appropriate agencies and veterinary officers regarding advice concerning the bird population within the City;
- (3) that Corporate Directors be asked to ensure that their business continuity plans are reviewed and operative;
- (4) that Corporate Directors, within the business continuity framework and having regard to the particular service pressures arising from the influenza pandemic, be asked to identify within their portfolio of responsibilities, the essential services, and the key skills and essential workers required to ensure continued delivery of essential services;
- (5) that the Corporate Director of Resources, Access and Diversity be asked to engage with employee representatives regarding the planning processes and potential health and safety implications for Council employees; and
- (6) that the Corporate Director of Resources, Access and Diversity prepare a fact sheet for Members.

b) Health Scrutiny Committee - 22 September 2005

The Committee resolved the following at the above meeting:-

**Choosing Health White Paper – Public Health Implications Of Smoking**

“RESOLVED:

- (1) That a report be prepared for Cabinet and Council, based on the background papers, proposing a review of the Council’s existing policies on smoking in its own premises and those it regulates;
- (2) That a letter be sent from the Health Scrutiny Committee to University Hospitals Leicester, the Magistrates’ Court and relevant officers in Leicester City Council requesting that action be taken to deter people smoking outside main entrances to their premises.”

Councillor Gill welcomed the report " Public Health Implications of Smoking" referred from the Health Scrutiny and reported that he had asked officers to prepare a report to be presented to the Cabinet at a future meeting.

**122. IMPROVING CORPORATE PARENTING IN LEICESTER CITY**

Councillor Gill submitted a report which sought a commitment to the enhancement of the existing Corporate Parenting initiative and agreement to its development plan.

The relevant Minutes of the meetings of the Education and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee on 1 September and of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee on 13 September had been circulated with the report.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Cabinet nominate a Cabinet Corporate Parenting Champion;
- (2) that a report on progress be received annually from the Cabinet’s Corporate Parenting Champion; and
- (3) that the report be referred to full Council for agreement of and support for the initiative and that Council be recommended to:-
  - i) confirm its commitment to improving outcomes for Looked After Children and Care Leavers through its

recognition of the importance of Corporate Parenting;

- ii) hold a child and young people friendly event at full Council; and
- iii) receive an annual report on Corporate Parenting developments

### **123. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY REPARATION OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY THE YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE**

Councillor Farmer submitted a report highlighting the role of restorative justice in the work of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) and suggesting ways in which the City Council could support the YOS in providing increased community reparation opportunities for young people.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that community reparation opportunities for young people be promoted across City Council Departments;
- (2) that City Council employees who wish to become trained panel members and attend panel meetings, if necessary during working hours consistent with similar voluntary work undertakings such as the JP service, be supported;
- (3) that approval be given for appropriate Council premises being used to hold local, community based panel meetings for the delivery of restorative justice services at a local neighbourhood level;
- (4) that the YOS exploring the possibility of identifying a suitable house for regeneration which can be used to enable young people to complete voluntary reparation and obtain key practical and vocational skills and qualifications, be supported; and
- (5) that a restorative justice forum be established, involving elected members and appropriate Council officers, to promote awareness of restorative justice and identify opportunities for new reparation schemes.

### **124. HOPE HAMILTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Councillor Suleman submitted a report informing the Cabinet of the cost of LEA liabilities incurred for the construction of a new primary school in Hamilton.

RESOLVED:

- that the LEA Liabilities of £376,869, incurred for the construction of a new primary school, be met from the Authority's Basic Need

Credit Approval allocation for the Hamilton Area.

## **125. IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES IN THE CITY**

Councillor Mugglestone submitted a report which outlined proposals for the improvement of public conveniences in the city so as to provide sustainable facilities, which reduced the vandalism and unsocial behaviour often associated with the current provision. It was noted that the report had been considered by the Arts, Leisure and Environment Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 19 October and the relevant minute extract had been circulated to Cabinet. The Cabinet supported the Committee's proposal that unisex facilities be provided for baby changing at as many of the park toilets and toilets adjacent to parks as possible.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Arts, Leisure and Environment Scrutiny Committee be thanked for their comments on the proposals;
- (2) that the revised proposals for the eight unattended toilet blocks detailed in Section 2 of the supporting information and the priority 1 works detailed in Appendix 1, be approved, with the first phase of the programme scheduled to be undertaken in 2005/06; and
- (3) that the Corporate Director of Regeneration & Culture, be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Regeneration & Culture to vary the programme within the total approved sum to reflect changes in circumstances and customer feedback, including the proposals of the Arts, Leisure and Environment Scrutiny Committee

## **126. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME**

Councillor Grant submitted a report which described how a number of streams of work were being co-ordinated into a Comprehensive Business Improvement Programme and seeking approval for the mandate for this major programme of work.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the arrangements for the co-ordination of a number of related streams of work into a comprehensive Business Improvement Programme and Integrated Services Programme, as set out in the supporting information, be noted;
- (2) that the Town Clerk consult relevant members and set up appropriate arrangements for scrutiny of the two programmes;

- (3) that the Business Improvement Programme be mandated with the vision, objectives, scope and approach set out in the supporting information;
- (4) that the programme funding and resources already in place be confirmed;
- (5) that each project be scoped and budgets approved by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Member reference group and that business cases with associated outcomes, risks and budgetary implications be subsequently developed and reported to the member reference group; and
- (6) that it be noted that departments are preparing efficiency plans that may require significant investment in infrastructure, particularly IT, and that a “spend to save” fund be considered as part of the 2006/07 budget process.

#### **127. CABINET'S SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

Councillor Coley submitted a report providing the Cabinet with its first quarterly summary of decisions made by Corporate Directors in consultation with Cabinet Leads.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the summary of decisions made at Corporate Director in consultation with Cabinet Leads during the period July to September 2005, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the Town Clerk be authorised to change Cabinet's Scheme of Delegation to officers as recommended by Council on 30 June 2005;
- (3) that the Town Clerk be authorised to publish this revision to the Scheme in Part 3 of the Constitution via the Intranet/Internet.

#### **128. FESTIVALS AND EVENTS STRATEGY**

Councillor Mugglestone submitted a report seeking Cabinet's approval to adopt 3 criteria to determine the Council's future financial support to festivals and events and to agree to the further development of the Strategy following consultation.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the criteria for supporting festivals and events, as set out below, be confirmed:
  - a) Help community cohesion and empowerment by bringing people together to share common interests
  - b) Demonstrate economic benefit to the city through job creation and visitor spend
  - c) Demonstrate innovation, quality and creativity to raise the profile of the city and improve satisfaction among residents.
- (2) that the impact of applying the agreed criteria on existing festivals and events, as set out in the Annex to the report (2.6 – 2.12) be noted and the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage consultation with those festivals and events organisers who could have their funding withdrawn or frozen at current levels, be supported;
- (3) that a further report be received in December, including the final version of the Strategy informed by the results of the initial consultation, a proposed programme of festivals and events, a detailed action plan and the results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage consultation; and
- (4) that it be noted that the budget to support the Strategy will be considered as part of the Council's 2006/7 Budget Strategy.

## **129. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair accepted onto the agenda an item of Urgent Business, 'Sale of Land at Bursom'. The reason for urgency was in order to meet the timescales for relocating two companies from the Shires extension area by March 2006, these relocations being on the critical path to keep the Shires scheme on programme.

It was recommended that the report be considered on in private on the grounds that it contained exempt information as defined by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

## **130. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following report in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, because it involves the likely disclosure of 'exempt' information, as defined in the Paragraph 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.

**131. SALE OF LAND AT BURSOM BUSINESS PARK**

Councillor Coley submitted a report.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the amendment of the terms of sale to EP of the site, indicated edged black on the attached plan, by exclusion of the route of the road indicated hatched black and the inclusion of a condition that the Council procure the construction of the road and services with full cost indemnity from EP, be approved;
- (2) that the sale of the site to EP for the sum detailed in the report be approved;
- (3) that an increase in the Capital Programme, as detailed in the report, for the construction of the access road at Bursom Business Park and related professional fees to be funded by a payment by EP be approved;
- (4) that an increase in the capital Programme, as detailed in the report, to bring Hoods Close to an adoptable standard, to be funded by earmarking this sum from the capital receipt from the sale of land at Bursom be approved;
- (5) that the Town Clerk be authorised, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and the Cabinet Lead for Resources to approve any increase in the cost of the access road at Bursom Business park subject to any additional costs being funded by EP;
- (6) that Contract Procedure Rules 5, 7 and 8 be waived to enable the appointment of the consultants as detailed in the report and Contract Procedure Rules 6, 7 and 8 be waived to enable the appointment of the road construction contractor, as detailed in the report;
- (7) that the Town Clerk be authorised, subject to the Head of Legal Services being satisfied, to:-

approve terms for the road construction contract with the contractor detailed in the report

and

approve terms for the appointment of the consultants as detailed in the report.

- (8) that the Head of Legal Services be authorised to enter into resulting documentation ; and
- (9) that under the provisions of Cabinet Procedure Rule 12 d no call in of the decision be allowed as the matter is considered urgent in order to meet the timescales of the Shires redevelopment scheme.

### **132. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 6.42 pm.

