



Leicester  
City Council

## **MEETING OF THE CABINET**

**DATE: MONDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2005**

**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**  
*Committee Services, Town Clerk's Department*  
*Leicester City Council*  
*New Walk Centre, Welford Place, Leicester LE1 6ZG*  
*(Tel: 0116 252 6028 Fax: 0116 247 1181*  
*email: [Frances.Wake@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Frances.Wake@leicester.gov.uk))*

)

## **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 24 October 2005, 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**

Housing Committee – 20 October 2005

##### **Affordable Housing through the Planning System**

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

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

- (1) that the Leicester Regeneration Company, Housing and Regeneration and Culture departments work closely together on the issue of Affordable Housing;
- (2) that Housing Scrutiny Committee and Development Control Committee and appropriate officers be kept informed of key planning applications, without placing Members into conflict with either the Local Plan or departmental policies;
- (3) that details of discussions over housing and regeneration that have taken place at Corporate Directors Board in the past and any in the future, be made available to the Chair and Spokespersons of the Housing Scrutiny Committee and the Chair and Vice-chair of Development Control Committee; and
- (4) that Cabinet take note of the severe shortage of affordable housing recognised by Housing Scrutiny Committee, which is likely to increase without adjustments being made to the Local Plan, and provides policy direction for officers to achieve both affordable housing and regeneration objectives in the future.

**The Cabinet may wish to call for a further report to address this.**

Councillor Metcalfe to respond

## **5. CHOICE BASED LETTINGS**

### **Appendix B**

Councillor Metcalfe submits a report informing the Cabinet of the Government's agenda to encourage all local housing authorities to operate choice based lettings systems by 2010. The report also describes a proposal to introduce a Choice Based Lettings scheme in Leicester. The Cabinet is asked to delegate to the Corporate Director of Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member, the arrangements for pursuing a joint bid with District Councils or Registered Social Landlords for ODPM finance. The Cabinet is also recommended to agree in principle the proposal to introduce a Choice Based Lettings scheme in Leicester subject to the outcome of the ODPM bid, the position to be reviewed when the outcome of the bid is known.

**The relevant minutes of the Housing Scrutiny Committee on 20 October will be circulated as soon as they are available.**

## **6. THE HOMEBUY SCHEME**

### **Appendix C**

Councillor Metcalfe submits a report that gives details of the Government's proposals for Councils, on a voluntary basis, to offer their Housing Revenue Account (HRA) tenants the option to buy a share of their home, known as the HomeBuy scheme. As the scheme would increase the existing shortage of affordable housing in Leicester, the Cabinet is recommended not to offer the HomeBuy scheme to tenants of Leicester City Council.

**The relevant minutes of the Housing Scrutiny Committee on 20 October will be circulated as soon as they are available.**

## **7. FREE CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL**

### **Appendix D**

Councillor Mugglestone submits a report seeking a decision from the Council on a free concessionary travel scheme, so that the bus companies can be given four months' notice prior to its introduction next April. The Cabinet is recommended to recommend Council to formally advise the bus companies that it intends to implement the Government's minimum obligation for free travel, and to review the situation when the Council's overall financial position is made clear. The Cabinet is also recommended to authorise the Director of Regeneration and Culture to enter into discussion to seek to cap the maximum amount of money that can be paid to the bus operators.

## **8. DEVELOPING AREA COMMITTEES**

### **Appendix E**

Councillor Blackmore submits a report on the further development of Area Committees. The purpose of the report is to learn from and develop current Area Committees and to roll out to the six other areas. The Cabinet is asked to consider a number of recommendations involving the setting up of Area Committees in nine areas of the city in 2006.

**9. CENTRAL LEICESTER LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2006 - 2011 - PROPOSED LEICESTER PARK AND RIDE SCHEME** Appendix F

Councillor Mugglestone submits a report informing the Cabinet of the details of a proposed park and ride scheme and seeking approval to the scheme for consultation.

**The relevant minutes of the Highways and Transportation Scrutiny Committee on 9 November will be circulated when they are available.**

**Members are asked to note that Appendix 3 of this report is marked 'NOT FOR PUBLICATION'. The information in these papers is exempt as defined in paragraph 8 of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended. 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.**

**10. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE PLANNING PROCESS** Appendix G

Councillor Farmer submits a report on the results of the public consultation on the Pre-Submission Statement of Community Involvement and seeking approval to the revised statement for further public consultation and for submission to the Secretary of State.

**The relevant minutes of the Strategic Planning and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee will be circulated when available.**

**11. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT** Appendix H

Councillor Mugglestone submits a report seeking Cabinet approval to the adoption of the above document.

**The relevant minutes of the Development Control Committee on 6 September and the Strategic Planning and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 14 September are attached to the report.**

**12. REPLACEMENT CITY OF LEICESTER LOCAL PLAN: RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON MODIFICATIONS** Appendix I

Councillor Farmer submits a report which sets out the results of the public consultation on the Proposed Modifications to the Deposit Replacement Local Plan. The report highlights the main issues arising from the responses and proposes minor changes to the Plan. The Cabinet is asked to recommend the report to Council for approval.

**The relevant minute of the Strategic Planning and Regeneration Scrutiny**

**Committee on 12 October is attached the report.**

**The relevant minute of the Development Control Committee on 1 November will be circulated as soon as it is available.**

**13. NEW COLLEGE LEICESTER DEFICIT REPAYMENT      Appendix J**

Councillor Suleman submits a report seeking approval to meet the New College deficit of £730,000, using powers given to the LEA by the Department for Education and Skills, using funding from uncommitted Secondary Review balances.

**14. GENERIC VOLUNTEER CENTRE FUNDING      Appendix K**

Councillor Blackmore submits a report seeking approval for the undertaking of a consultation exercise on the funding of a Generic Volunteer Centre from 1 April 2006.

**15. INTEGRATED SERVICES PROGRAMME      Appendix L**

Councillor Grant submits a report seeking approval to the departmental allocation of services in response to the recently completed consultation on the proposed reconfiguration of services presented to Cabinet on 27 June 2005.

**16. JOB EVALUATION, PAY AND GRADING PROJECT      Appendix M**

Councillor Coley submits a report setting out proposals for a revised mandate in the light of project progress and matters arising.

**17. MEMBERS INVOLVEMENT IN OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT      Appendix N**

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

**The relevant minute extract from the Resources and Equal Opportunities Scrutiny Committee on 22 September is attached to the report**

**18. PROTOCOL FOR ORGANISATION AND STAFFING CHANGE      Appendix O**

Councillor Coley submits a report informing the Cabinet of a the new draft protocol for the above and seeking comments on the options for member involvement in review appeals.

**19. LONG SERVICE AWARDS AND RETIREMENT GIFTS      Appendix P**

Councillor Coley submits a report recommending the implementation of a new scheme to reward long serving employees.

**20. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

**21. PRIVATE SESSION**

AGENDA

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO NOTE

Under the law, the Cabinet is entitled to consider certain items in private. Members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting when such items are discussed.

The Cabinet is recommended to consider the following reports in private on the grounds that they contain 'exempt' information as defined by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, and consequently that the Cabinet makes the following resolution:-

"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.

**22. FORMER MUNDELLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Councillor Coley submits a report.

