



Leicester  
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
CABINET

Held: MONDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 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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**133. 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.

Councillor Coley declared a non prejudicial interest in the 'Integrated Services Programme' report as a member of his family was an employee of the Youth Offending Service and in the 'New College Deficit Repayment' report as his child was a pupil at the school.

**134. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

'Preventing Extremism Together'

The Leader reported that the Council had received a letter of thanks from the Home Office for organising the visits of Hazel Blears and Paul Goggins over the summer as part of the work on 'Preventing Extremism Together'.

The Home Secretary particularly welcomed three of the proposals made by the groups:

Establishing a National Advisory Council of Imams and Mosques;  
Setting up a National Forum against Extremism and Islamophobia;  
Launching a country-wide 'roadshow' of influential religious leaders and scholars.

Three Cities Summit

The Leader reported that last Friday he had the pleasure of attending the

'Three Cities Summit' hosted by EMDA. This was an opportunity for the principal authorities in the region to come together and share concerns with David Milliband, the Minister of Communities and Local Government.

#### World Kick Boxing Championships

The Leader announced that CKI, a Leicester based martial arts club, had 10 members representing England at the World Kick Boxing Championships 2005 in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.

We now had 2 world champions, 3 Silver medallists and 2 Bronze medallists. He extended congratulations to the team, the individuals and their supporters, and everyone who made this possible, especially their coach, Ismail Saleh.

#### Cabinet Lead Members

The Leader announced the names of the two Cabinet members to cover the two new departments as follows:

Councillor Suleman – Children's Services  
Councillor Gill – Adult Services

### **135. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

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

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

#### Housing Scrutiny Committee - 20 October 2005

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

The following was agreed at the above meeting.

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.

Councillor Metcalfe welcomed the comments of the Housing Scrutiny Committee. It was noted that there may be wider Committee interest than just Housing and officers were asked to ensure co-ordination of any such issues.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) that Cabinet receives a further report from the Corporate Director of Housing and the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture on how close working on affordable housing can be achieved, this to include a protocol that will:-
  - a) give landowners and developers certainty at an early stage of what will be required
  - b) set out a consistent approach on requirements
  - c) set out for Members the issues involved in deciding if a scheme is viable within the meaning of the Local Plan
- 2) that the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture and the Corporate Director of Housing discuss with Members of Housing Scrutiny Committee and Development Control Committee how they would like to be informed in future on key housing planning applications
- 3) that relevant Corporate Directors brief Scrutiny triumvirate members on housing and regeneration issues; and
- 4) that in view of the severe and increasing shortage of affordable housing in the city, forthcoming Supplementary Planning Documents must address both affordable housing and regeneration objectives.

### **137. CHOICE BASED LETTINGS**

Councillor Metcalfe submitted a report that informed Cabinet of the Government's agenda to encourage all local housing authorities to operate choice based lettings systems (CBL) by 2010 and to describe a proposal to introduce a Choice Based Lettings scheme in Leicester. A presentation was given to Members on how a Choice Based Lettings scheme worked.

The relevant minute of the Housing Scrutiny Committee on 20 October had been circulated to the Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Corporate Director of Housing be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead for Housing, the arrangements for pursuing a joint bid with District Councils or Register Social Landlords for ODPM finance; and
- (2) that the introduction of a choice based lettings scheme in Leicester be approved in principle, subject to the outcome of the ODPM bid and the Corporate Director of Housing be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead for housing, to identify resources and agree the detailed design of the scheme and the arrangements for implementation.

### **138. THE HOMEBUY SCHEME**

Councillor Metcalfe submitted a report that gave 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 did not wish to offer the HomeBuy scheme to tenants of Leicester City Council.

The relevant minutes of the Housing Scrutiny Committee on 20 October had been circulated to the Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

- that the HomeBuy scheme be not offered to tenants of Leicester City Council until such time as the scheme becomes compulsory.

### **139. FREE CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL**

Councillor Mugglestone submitted a report seeking a recommendation for Council on a free concessionary travel scheme, so that the bus companies could be given four months' notice prior to its introduction next April.

It was noted that from next April the Government required concessionary travel for people aged 60 or over and certain people with disabilities to be free of charge. This would involve additional expenditure of several million pounds, and Cabinet would need to seek Council approval for its recommended option.

The Government's minimum obligation was for such travel to be free after 0930 and before 2300 Monday to Friday and all day on Saturdays and Sundays, with the concession only applying to journeys wholly within the City boundary.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that Council be recommended 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; and

- (2) that the Director of Regeneration and Culture be authorised to enter into discussions to seek to cap the maximum amount of money that can be paid to the bus operators.

#### **140. DEVELOPING AREA COMMITTEES**

Councillor Blackmore submitted a report on the further development of Area Committees. The purpose of the report was to learn from and develop current Area Committees and to roll out to the six other areas. It was noted that three were already running and that Area 4 (Spinney and Stoneygate) would have its first meeting on 6 December and it was proposed that it would use the new approach contained in the report.

It was also noted that the proposals were agreed by the Leicester Partnership at their meeting last Wednesday. However, as part of the discussion at that meeting, it was felt that young people should represent themselves rather than being represented by the Youth Service and Cabinet was asked to approve this amendment to the proposals in the report.

Councillor Blackmore also pointed out that the proposed terms of reference for the Committees included a provision that budget recommendations could only be made at a quorate meeting. In addition, he proposed that there should also be a requirement that a Member be present from any Ward in which the expenditure was proposed.

Councillor Suleman also referred to representations that the Cabinet had received with regard to further membership of Area Committees and he noted that any additional membership of the Area Committee above the basic requirement was a matter for each Area Committee to determine.

#### **RESOLVED:**

that Council be recommended to agree the following:-

- (1) that the Council and the Leicester Partnership set up Area Committees in nine areas of the city in 2006, as detailed in the report
- (2) That the Council aims to provide the public with coordinated opportunities for area based engagement with public service providers and to develop this aim the membership of Area Committees should consist of -

ward Councillors (one of whom would Chair)  
Police  
PCT

The neighbourhood / community representative for the  
Leicester Partnership  
2 young people  
other partners as each Area Committee sees fit.

- (3) That each Area Committee should develop area plans to implement the outcomes of the Strategy for Leicester and the Local Area Agreement, with a particular focus on meeting neighbourhood renewal floor targets. These plans should:

be based on data such as performance against NRF floor targets / Local Area Agreement outcomes and local issues  
be a mixture of actions to tackle city wide and local priorities;  
be developed through collaboration and consultation with partners and local communities; and  
include action to tackle deprivation in priority neighbourhoods

- (4) that to develop community engagement in Area Committees:

they should be advertised widely once they are set up to encourage people to attend

meetings and events associated with Area Committees are designed to attract and engage people more effectively, for example by having themed meetings, patch walks, social events, facilitated discussions etc.

they should work with area youth service to bring young people's issues on to the agenda, and make links with the three Area Youth Forums

- (5) That the Council agrees an indicative package of support to Area Committees set out in Section 3.4 to be funded from existing resources
- (6) That Members note that each Area Committee has been given a budget of £25,000 for improvement to benefit their area, as agreed at a previous meeting of Cabinet on 26 September 2005
- (7) That officers work with Members to develop proposals for delegated functions for Area Committees, to be agreed at a future Cabinet and Council meeting; and
- (8) That Members agree the Terms of Reference for Area

Committees attached at Appendix B of the report, these having been amended to reflect the proposals in this report, subject to the quoracy requirements being amended so that there is at least one Member present from any Ward affected by budget recommendations.

#### **141. CENTRAL LEICESTER LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2006 - 2011 - PROPOSED LEICESTER PARK AND RIDE SCHEME**

Councillor Mugglestone submitted 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 minute of the Highways and Transportation Scrutiny Committee on 9 November had been circulated to the Cabinet

RESOLVED:

- (1) that Site 35 as detailed in the report be approved as a Park and Ride site subject to the necessary statutory approvals, to be carried out as expeditiously as possible
- (2) that the Service Director Property Services be instructed to work with the Service Director Cultural Services to secure a replacement for Site 35, within the next fifteen years, to discharge Cabinet's resolution arising from its consideration of the Report "Crematorium Provision in Leicester" presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 1 March 2004, which changed the commitment to use the Enderby site (Site 35) to using an alternative site)
- (3) that Site 35 be approved as the preferred site for consultation; and
- (4) that Route 1 be approved as the preferred bus route for consultation

#### **142. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE PLANNING PROCESS**

Councillor Farmer submitted 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 on 14 September and 9 November had been circulated to the Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

That the Draft Submission Statement of Community Involvement

be approved for six weeks public consultation and submission to the Secretary of State.

**143. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

Councillor Farmer submitted a report seeking approval to the adoption of the above Supplementary Planning Document.

The relevant minutes of the Development Control Committee on 6 September and the Strategic Planning and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 14 September had been circulated to the Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

That the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document, attached as Annex B to the report, be adopted as City Council policy as supplementary to the City of Leicester Local Plan and the replacement Local Plan, subject to, having regard to the financial viability of projects already initiated.

**144. REPLACEMENT CITY OF LEICESTER LOCAL PLAN: RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON MODIFICATIONS**

Councillor Farmer submitted a report which set out the results of the public consultation on the Proposed Modifications to the Deposit Replacement Local Plan. The report highlighted the main issues arising from the responses and proposed minor changes to the Plan.

The relevant minute of the Strategic Planning and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 12 October was attached to the report and the relevant minute of the Development Control Committee on 1 November had also been circulated to the Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

that the report be recommended to Council for approval.

**145. NEW COLLEGE LEICESTER DEFICIT REPAYMENT**

Councillor Suleman submitted 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.

The Cabinet noted that this payment would have no detrimental impact on other schools.

RESOLVED:

(1) that the 'parked' New College accumulated deficit of £730,000 be met by a virement of £730,000 from



unallocated Secondary Review monies into the Schools in Financial Difficulty Scheme; and

- (2) that the settlement be conditional upon the school providing a monthly budget monitoring report to the LEA and Interim Executive Board.

#### **146. GENERIC VOLUNTEER CENTRE FUNDING**

Councillor Blackmore submitted a report seeking approval for the undertaking of a consultation exercise on the funding of a Generic Volunteer Centre from 1 April 2006. It was noted that the Resources and Equal Opportunities Scrutiny Committee would consider the report at its reconvened meeting on 17 November.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Assistant Chief Executive undertake a consultation process with Voluntary Action Leicester, as set out in 2.9 of the report with regard to the Volunteer Bureau; and
- (2) that this consultation be aligned in time to inform the budget strategy 2006/09 as set out in 2.9 of the report.

#### **147. INTEGRATED SERVICES PROGRAMME**

Councillor Grant submitted 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.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the recommendations in respect of the allocation of services into departments be approved;
- (2) that the indicative timetable which includes bringing forward the options for Service Director configuration to Cabinet on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2006, be noted;
- (3) that the Chief Executive be authorised to make detailed adjustments to the allocation of functions to departments, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader; and
- (4) the under the provisions of Cabinet procedure rule 12d, no 'call in' of this decision be allowed on the grounds of urgency arising from the current timetable for the recruitment of a Director of Adult Services, which could be adversely affected by uncertainty at this stage.

#### **148. JOB EVALUATION, PAY AND GRADING PROJECT**

Councillor Coley submitted a report setting out proposals for a revised mandate

in the light of project progress and matters arising.

**RESOLVED:**

That the revised project objectives in Appendix B of the report be approved and the following updated mandate for the Job Evaluation, Pay and Grading project:-

A new pay and grading structure being developed and implemented based on the GLPC scheme.

Implementation by joint agreement with the Trade Unions as far as that is practically possible within the terms of the overall project mandate.

An effective date when the new pay and grading structure will be available of October 2006 with an implementation date at a time to be agreed, from March, 2007.

Agreement to provide additional funding of up to £635,000 for project management and implementation costs, the release of this to be justified and decided by the Corporate Director of RAD as and when required in consultation with the Cabinet lead for RAD and the Directors Board.

Agree that funding be provided from the provision in the budget of £1m for Job Evaluation in 2005/06, with the balance to be contributed to the Job Evaluation reserve to help meet future protection costs (as intended when the budget was established).

**149. MEMBERS INVOLVEMENT IN OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT**

Councillor Coley recommended that this report be deferred for further discussion.

**RESOLVED:**

that the report be deferred to the next meeting of the Cabinet.

**150. PROTOCOL FOR ORGANISATION AND STAFFING CHANGE**

Councillor Coley submitted 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.

The relevant minute of the Resources and Equal Opportunities Scrutiny Committee on 22 September had been circulated to Cabinet and the Committee's comments had been taken on board in the proposed protocol.

The Cabinet indicated option 2, as detailed in the report, with regard to member involvement in review appeals, as a possible preferred option as the basis for

the final stages of consultation.

RESOLVED:

that the contents and structure of the new draft protocol be noted.

### **151. LONG SERVICE AWARDS AND RETIREMENT GIFTS**

Councillor Coley recommended that this report be deferred pending further considerations of the transitional costs.

RESOLVED:

that the report be deferred to the next meeting of the Cabinet to allow further consideration of the transitional costs.

### **152. PRIVATE SESSION**

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.

### **153. FORMER MUNDELLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

RESOLVED:

- (1) that Option 2, the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in the property shown as parcels A and B on the plan, Appendix 1, to William Davis Limited for the sum detailed in the report, be approved;
- (2) that the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in the property shown as parcel C on the plan, Appendix 1, to LIFT for the sum detailed in the report, be approved
- (3) that the Director of Resources, Access and Diversity, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead for the Resources, Access & Diversity Department, be authorised to agree the detailed terms for the freehold disposals of the property, including any variation, amendment or addition to the terms currently reported.

- (4) that the Head of Legal Services be authorised to enter into all necessary contracts and agreements, including a conditional contracts, arising out of this disposal process.

#### **154. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 6.25 pm.

