



Leicester  
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
CABINET

Held: MONDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2008 at 1.00 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Willmott- Chair  
Councillor Draycott- Vice-Chair

Councillor Bhatti	Councillor Dempster
Councillor Connelly	Councillor Kitterick
Councillor Corral	Councillor Mrs Sood
Councillor Wann	

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Mugglestone – Leader of the Conservative Group

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**214. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**215. 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. The following personal, non-prejudicial declarations were made in relation to Item 10: General Fund Revenue Budget Strategy:

Councillor Bhatti	Daughter-In-law teaches at Fulhurst Community College
Councillor Connelly	Partners' mother is seconded to Leicester City Council by Leicester City PCT.
Councillor Corral	both daughters coach sporting activities at Council venues.
Cllr Dempster	husband owns a limited company that rents a business property from the Leicester City Council.
Councillor Sood	mother is Member of Age Concern luncheon club. Trustee and Executive Member of Leicester Council of Faiths. Blue Badge and Concessionary Bus Pass Holder. Vice Chair and Public Relations Officers of FLARES

(Fibromylgia Disability Group).  
Life Member of Hindu and Religious Society.  
brother's wife is a Team Leader, Asylum Seekers, Home  
Office  
Councillor Willmott Board Member of EMDA, Leicester PCT and East  
Midlands Tourism.

## **216. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **217. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2008, having been circulated to Members, be taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## **218. MATTERS REFERRED FROM COMMITTEES**

There were no matters referred from Committees.

## **219. AREA COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE**

Councillor Draycott submitted a report that sought Cabinet endorsement of spending proposals by Area Committees.

RESOLVED:

That the expenditure proposals by Area Committees as detailed in Appendix A of both the main and supplementary reports be approved.

## **220. RESIDENTIAL AMENITY GUIDE - DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

Councillor Kitterick submitted a report that covered the preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the proposed "Residential Amenity Guide" and in particular the recently completed public consultation exercise.

Councillor Wann stated that the document was valuable for the City.

RESOLVED:

That the document be adopted as Supplementary Planning Document to the City of Leicester Local Plan.

## **221. CHILDCARE WORKFORCE AUDIT**

Councillor Dempster submitted a report that provided vital planning information

to the local authority as well as contributing to local and national data.

The relevant minute extract of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 14 February 2008 had been circulated to the Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

## **222. LEICESTERSHIRE CONNEXIONS GOVERNANCE AND FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS**

Councillor Dempster submitted a report that updated Cabinet on the governance and funding arrangements for the provision of information, advice and guidance for young people aged 13-19 in Leicester and Leicestershire from April 2008.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that reasonable steps be taken to ensure that Connexions Service Limited becomes an in-house company wholly owned and controlled by the Council and Leicestershire County Council, in agreement with Leicestershire County Council and the present Board of Connexions Service Limited.
- (2) that reasonable steps be taken to ensure that Connexions Trading Limited becomes a company wholly owned and controlled by the Council and Leicestershire County Council, in agreement with Leicestershire County Council and the present Board of Connexions Service Limited.
- (3) that the Council and Leicestershire County Council each become a member of Connexions Services Limited and Connexions Trading Limited as part of the service reorganisation.
- (4) that authority be granted to the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services, in consultation with the Service Director Legal Services, to agree a new memorandum and articles of association for each of Connexions Service Limited and Connexions Trading Limited and enter into appropriate members' agreements concerning both companies as necessary to meet the requirements of the *Teckal* exemption and take such other steps as are envisaged in the Report and necessary to ensure the continuity of the Connexions Service from April 2008.

## **223. PREVENTION OF HOMELESSNESS**

Councillor Bhatti submitted a report that proposed delegated authority to be

given to the Corporate Director of Adults and Housing to change the Housing Allocations Policy for short periods to respond to pressures on the use of bed and breakfast.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Corporate Director of Adults and Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Lead for Housing be given the power to make temporary amendments to the Allocation Policy if the use of Bed and Breakfast starts to rise, and that any amendments made be reviewed monthly.

**224. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2008/09 TO 2010/11**

Councillor Willmott submitted a report that requested Cabinet to consider a three year corporate budget strategy, three year departmental revenue strategies for each department, and a general fund budget for 2008/09 and to recommend these to the Council.

The relevant minute extracts from the Children, Schools and Young People Task Group held on 16 January 2008, the Regeneration and Culture Task Group held on 23 January 2008, the Adults and Housing Task Group held on 28 January 2008, the Joint Meeting of the Performance and Value For Money Select Committee, the Community Cohesion and Safety Task Group held on 1 February 2008, the Health Scrutiny Committee held on 4 February 2008 and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 7 February 2008 and 14 February 2008 had been circulated to the Cabinet.

It was also noted that comments from Unison and UCU & JTU on the budget proposal had been circulated to the Cabinet.

Councillor Willmott recommended that Cabinet approve the budget for recommendation to Council. He referred to the minute extracts from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 7 February 2008, relating to the Departmental Revenue Strategies (DRS), and asked Cabinet members to comment to each one in turn.

In relation to the Children and Young People's Services DRS, Councillor Dempster addressed comments from the UCU and stated that funding towards the Transforming Leicester Learning Plan had been received from the Department for Education and Schools through the budget and also through the redirection of existing money. She believed the plan was fully fundable. In response to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board's comments with regard to equal pay compensation for staff in Voluntary Aided Schools, the Interim Chief Executive confirmed that she was taking legal advice on the matter.

In response to the comments made by the Management Board on the Adults and Housing DRS, Councillor Corral stated that despite pressures it was hoped that the department would break even by the end of the financial year. He added that a review on community centres was to take place and that a

paper on the future of these would be brought to a Cabinet meeting. He stated that at this point in time, he could not promise that all community centres in the City would remain open indefinitely, and this was partly due to the inadequate funding of the centres by the previous administration.

With regard to Scrutiny's comments on the Regeneration and Culture DRS, Councillor Kitterick reported that the vast majority of the 10/11 inner circle bus service had been retained, whilst still delivering £300,000 worth of savings. In relation to environmental services, Councillor Wann reported that additional money had been invested in Leicester in Bloom, Pest Control, City Wardens and Graffiti services. In response to the point about police not fully meeting security costs for festivals, Councillor Connelly shared the concerns of the Management Board. He hoped that the Leicestershire Constabulary would reconsider their position in light of their new budget, so that more money could be spent on festivals themselves. In response to the fourth recommendation the Interim Chief Executive stated that the schools forum had agreed to invest additional resources into school meals, and that young people were to be heavily involved in the shaping the new service.

Councillor Draycott responded to Scrutiny's comments made on the Resources DRS. She stated that there would be an opportunity to review the Coroner's Service in 2009 and acknowledged that this service had a significant impact on the council's budget. In response to the comment relating to the funding towards community meetings, Councillor Draycott stated that that this was offset by savings incurred in previous years. In relation to the comments on staff surveys, Councillor Draycott highlighted the worth in conducting these, and stated that these should regularly take place. Councillor Draycott responded to the final comment by explaining that it was vital that the authority made better use and greater centralisation of its data.

Councillor Willmott thanked the Scrutiny Committees for all comments made.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that the draft 3 year financial strategy for 2008/09 to 2010/11, the draft departmental revenue strategies prepared by each director, and the draft overall budget for 2008/09 as described in this report be considered;
- (b) that the intention to revise the 3 year financial strategy in the light of a longer-term financial strategy for the City as a whole, to be developed with Leicester Partnership be noted;
- (c) that the Chief Finance Officer be asked to prepare a formal budget and council tax resolution, and consequent prudential indicators, for Council approval;
- (d) that subject to the approval of the budget by the Council on

20 February and the Council's normal procedures, corporate directors be authorised to take any action necessary to deliver their departmental revenue strategies for 2009/10 to 2010/11;

- (e) subject to the approval of the budget by the Council, to authorise the Director of Resources to spend the budgets of £10,000 allocated to each ward, in order to implement spending decisions taken at community meetings;
- (f) to note that significant adjustments to the budgets of departments will be made to reflect the incidence of costs arising from the new job evaluation scheme, and that the Chief Finance Officer has already been authorised to make such adjustments;
- (g) that the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to calculate and give effect to the following budget adjustments, for which provision is presently held corporately:
  - the impact of the revaluation of the pension fund;
  - the impact of any increase in the costs of energy, within the available provision;
  - savings realised by the Business Improvement Programme, to the extent that such adjustments have not already been made;
  - decisions taken by the Cabinet in October in respect of phase one of Building Schools for the Future (and later development phases);
- (h) that it be recommended to the Council that the approved budget shall form part of the policy and budget framework of the Council, and that future amendments shall require the approval of full Council, subject to the following:
  - the Cabinet may authorise the addition, deletion or virement of sums within the budget up to a maximum amount of £1m (either one-off or per annum) for a single purpose;
  - the Cabinet may determine the use of corporate budget provisions for service transformation and the customer transformation fund;
- (i) that the schedule of determinations to the Council's finance procedure rules as shown at Appendix 6 be agreed;

- (j) that it be recommended to Council that, subject to its approval of the budget, the elements of the budget shown at Appendix 7 to this report shall be controllable budget lines for the purposes of Finance Procedure Rule 4.3.6 (being the level at which the budget is disaggregated for the purposes of applying the Council's virement rules);
- (k) that the treasury strategy included as Appendix 8 and the investment strategy included at Appendix 9 to the report be approved and recommended to Council for approval;
- (l) that Council be requested to delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer to vary components within the Council's overall borrowing limit (the "authorised limit") which relate to borrowing and other forms of finance;
- (m) that capital sums set-aside for area committee works, and any underspent area committee budgets and reserves at the end of 2007/08, be utilised to fund the community meetings' budgets and associated support be agreed;
- (n) to recommend that the proposed policy on minimum revenue provision described in section 23 of the report be approved by Council

## 225. 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 Paragraphs detailed below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and taking all the circumstances into account, it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the information as exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

#### Paragraph 1

Information relating to any individual.

Disposal of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Sites – Batch 1

#### Paragraph 2

Information which is likely to reveal the identify of an individual.

Disposal of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Sites – Batch 1

#### Paragraph 3

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Barnes Heath House  
Disposal of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Sites – Batch 1  
Delayed Eviction Scheme for Refugees

## **226. BARNES HEATH HOUSE**

Councillor Dempster submitted a report that sought to update Cabinet on the progress of the planned works relating to services for disabled children and young people at Barnes Heath House and to secure the approval to add the scheme to the Council's capital programme.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the addition of the Barnes Heath House scheme to the Capital Programme, to be funded by the amount recommended in the report, be approved.
- (2) that the use of Prudential Borrowing, should expenditure on the scheme be financed from the sale of the Mayfield site occur before the capital receipt is received, be approved.
- (3) that the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Service be authorised to commence the scheme at Barnes Heath House.
- (4) that funding for the proposed scheme be increased by upto £175,000 in the event that the receipts from Mayfield Children and Family Centre exceed £400,000.

## **227. DELAYED EVICTION SCHEME FOR REFUGEES**

Councillor Bhatti submitted a report that informed Cabinet of background to potential impact of the decision of the Home Office to clear a backlog of about 100 asylum decisions by March 2008.

RESOLVED:

That a Delayed Eviction Scheme be set up and officers negotiate reimbursement of the Council's costs.

## **228. DISPOSAL OF HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) SITES - BATCH 1**

Councillor Bhatti submitted a report that updated members and sought Cabinet approval for changes to this scheme.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Peake Road / Carpe Road Site be removed from



the Batch 1 tender and replaced with Towle Road 2.

- (2) that authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Adults & Housing, in conjunction with the Corporate Director of Resources, to negotiate and conclude negotiations for “Batch 1” (or any combination of sites within “Batch 1”) on terms which are substantially the same as reported (or proportionately for each site).

