



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CABINET

Held: MONDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2000 at 5.00pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Willmott - Chair
Councillor Patel - Vice-Chair

Councillor Draycott
Councillor Getliffe
Councillor Holden

Councillor Osman
Councillor Roberts
Councillor Subedar

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13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they had in the business to be discussed and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

No declarations were made.

14. LEADER'S REPORT

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members to the second meeting of the Cabinet.

Fuel Shortages

The Chair asked the Chief Executive to brief the Cabinet on the current situation with regard to fuel shortages.

The Chief Executive circulated a paper and updated the Cabinet on measures put in hand in line with the Business Continuity Plan within the Council to address the fuel shortages over the last week. Thanks were expressed to staff for their rapid responses to secure fuel supplies and reprioritise operations in the interests of the community.

The current situation was noted.

Council Tax - Direct Debits

The Chair reported that additional Council Tax deductions had been made in error by direct debit from 3000 residents. Council offices had been opened over the weekend to offer advice and assistance to the public.

The Chair apologised to all affected residents for the problems this had caused. The situation had now been rectified and compensation would be paid to those who had been affected. Systems were also being reviewed to investigate how the error had occurred and to ensure that similar problems did not happen in future.

15. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 4 SEPTEMBER 2000

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2000, as in the Minute Book on pages 1 to 6 inclusive, copies of which had been circulated to members, be received, taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

16. PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH TWO PRIMARY CARE TRUSTS IN THE CITY

Councillor Getliffe, the Cabinet member for Social Services and Public Health, presented a report of the Director of Social Services proposing the Council's response to consultation on proposals to establish two Primary Care Trusts in the City.

RESOLVED:-

That the Council's response to the Primary Care Trust consultation, recommending the creation of a single Primary Care Trust as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

17. PROPOSALS TO RESHAPE HOSPITAL SERVICES IN LEICESTERSHIRE

Councillor Getliffe, the Cabinet Member for Social Services and Personal Health, presented a report of the Director of Social Services seeking members' views on proposals to reshape hospital services in Leicestershire.

Cabinet members welcomed the revised proposals which gave an opportunity to address development of the hospital services in a strategic fashion. The Chair thanked Councillor Getliffe, officers and local people who had responded to consultations with the NHS Trust.

RESOLVED:-

That the option recommended by the Leicestershire Health Authority in its consultation document *Our Hospitals, Our Future*, be welcomed.

18. BASE BUDGET PREPARATION 2001-02

Councillor Patel, the Cabinet Member for Finance Resources and Equal Opportunities, presented a report of the Chief Financial Officer on the base budget preparation for 2001/02.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the framework for base budget preparation be endorsed; and
- (2) that the cash limits for each Department be noted.

19. STATUTORY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1999/2000

Councillor Patel, Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Equal Opportunities presented a report of the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval of the Statutory Statement of Accounts for 1999/2000.

It was noted that the Finance, Resources and Equal Opportunities Scrutiny Committee had considered and accepted the accounts and expressed the view that the assumed rate of inflation was not over generous.

RESOLVED:-

That the Council's Statement of Accounts for 1999/2000 be approved.

20. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNUAL REPORT ON THE REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION TEAM

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive on the annual report on the performance of the Social Services Department's Registration and Inspection Service, and welcomed the continuing service improvements in the Unit.

It was noted that within the next two years the Service would undergo significant changes as inspection of Under 8s services would transfer to Ofsted and that of adult services would transfer to the National Care Standards Commission from April 2002.

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

21. PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Councillor Holden, the Cabinet Member for Arts Leisure and the Environment, presented a report of the Director of Environment and Development seeking approval for actions to be taken in order to facilitate implementation of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Waste Management Procurement process.

Councillor Holden reported that the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) had confirmed that the City Council's PFI bid for an integrated waste management facility had been successful. This would mean the development of a recycling and mixed waste composting facility unique in the UK and would provide for up to 40% of all waste to be recycled.

The Chair put forward an additional proposal that the relevant Scrutiny Committee's views and support for the development of this scheme be sought.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) that the Director of Environment and Development by delegated power, in conjunction with the Head of Legal Services and Chief Financial Officer to prepare and award contracts for the appointment of external special advisors to assist the Council;
- (2) that funding of advisors from reserves pending reimbursement from the successful contractor be approved and that the estimated cost of appointing external advisors as detailed in paragraph 4.4 of the report be noted;
- (3) that any surplus PFI funding in the early years of the contract be held in reserve to support future payments, as detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report;
- (4) that the views and support for the development of the scheme be sought from the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

22. TOWER BLOCKS DEMOLITION

Councillor Draycott, Cabinet Member for Housing presented a joint report of

the Director of Housing and Director of Commercial Services seeking approval for the deconstruction of the two tower blocks at St Matthews as explosive demolition would carry an unacceptable degree of risk to nearby property and underground services. Deconstruction would add £120,000 to the already quoted costs.

Councillor Draycott recommended that no objection to the decision should be allowed because delay may cause difficulties meeting Housing Corporation funding deadlines for redevelopment. It was also possible that delay would allow the current accepted tender to lapse and the Council may incur additional costs if this required renegotiation. It was also important that residents have their position resolved as soon as possible.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the two tower blocks at St Matthews be deconstructed with the costs phased over the 2000/01 and 2001/02 Housing Capital Programmes; and
- (2) that the Head of Legal Services be authorised to draw up appropriate contract documentation and enter into the contract for the deconstruction of the two tower block at St Matthews; and
- (3) that under the provisions of Standing Order 42 (d), no objection be allowed to the above decision for the reasons of urgency set out above.

23. SERVICE PROFILE - EDUCATION

Councillor Subedar, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning and the Director of Education gave a presentation on the issues facing the Education Department and initiatives to address these.

RESOLVED:-

That the presentation be noted.

24. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair has agreed to take the following items as Any Other Urgent Business (AOUB) by reasons of special circumstances as stated below:-

Cancellation of Council Meeting 21 September 2000

Reason for Urgency: that arising from the Cabinet's decision to refer the PFI and Waste Management report to Scrutiny Committee (minute no 21 refers)

items for the Council agenda had changed.

The Chair noted that the report on PFI and Waste Management had been the only item on the Council agenda requiring Council endorsement. Accordingly Cabinet proposed and agreed to cancel the meeting of Council scheduled for 21 September. The Chair noted that questions which had been received would be answered in writing.

RESOLVED:-

That the Council meeting scheduled for 21 September 2000 be cancelled.

AOUB 1- Sale of Land at Mountain Road Leicester (private agenda item)

AOUB 2 - Land at Beaumont Leys (private agenda item)

Reason for Urgency: both items relate to property transactions which need to proceed before the next meeting of the Cabinet. The items were not on the main agenda as the negotiations were insufficiently complete for the inclusion of the reports.

25. PRIVATE SESSION

RESOLVED:-

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

*AOUB 1 - Sale of Land at Mountain Road Leicester
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

*AOUB 2 – Land at Beaumont Leys
Paragraph 8*

The amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services.

26. SALE OF LAND AT MOUNTAIN ROAD, LEICESTER - ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Director of Environment and Development submitted a report under Urgent Business seeking approval for the freehold disposal of an area of industrial development land at Mountain Road Leicester.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) that authority be delegated to the Director of Environment and Development in consultation with the Cabinet Member with the Portfolio for Finance, Resources and Equal Opportunities to agree terms for the disposal of the freehold interest of the land at Mountain Road Leicester;
- (2) that, subject to resolution 1 above, the Head of Legal Services be authorised to enter into a lock out agreement and / or a contract for the sale of this land in accordance with the agreed terms, including a conditional contract if the Director of Environment and Development considers it appropriate.

27. LAND AT BEAUMONT LEYS - ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Director of Environment and Development submitted a report as Urgent Business seeking approval to a proposed property transaction in respect of land at Leycroft Road, Beaumont Leys.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) that the interest in the land identified in the report is acquired by the City Council by way of the surrender of part of the current lease and disposal of the Council's freehold reversion in respect of the remainder of lease (or such other legal procedure as may be agreed between the parties) in accordance with the terms set out in the above summary;
- (2) that the Director of Environment and Development be delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet member with the portfolio for Finance, Resources and Equal Opportunities, to agree any additional terms to those now reported;
- (3) that a capital sum as identified in the report, to be funded from the Regeneration block sum be approved to cover payment to the current lessees of the land in question.

28. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.15 p.m.