



Leicester  
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
CABINET

Held: MONDAY, 15 JANUARY 2001 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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**87. 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 Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

Councillor Getliffe and Councillor Roberts declared an interest in Appendix I, 'Housing Revenue Account - Budget 2001/02'; Appendix J, 'Housing Capital Programme 2000/2001 and 2001/02 and Appendix N, 'Tenant Participation in Council Housing' as Council tenants but referred to their dispensation from the Secretary of State to speak and vote.

**88. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Willmott referred to the Council's announcement on Friday 12 January of proposals for neighbourhood management and reported that the Cabinet would receive a full report at its next meeting.

**89. SERVICE PROFILE - TOWN CLERK'S AND CORPORATE RESOURCES (IT AND FINANCIAL SERVICES)**

Councillor Patel gave a presentation on the work of the Information Technology and Financial Services Section of the Town Clerk's and Corporate Resources Department.

RESOLVED:

that the report be noted.

**90. CHARTER OF SIMON DE MONTFORT C1321 -  
RESPONSE TO PETITION**

Councillor Patel submitted a report proposing a response to a petition with 31 signatures submitted to the Council meeting on 30 November 2000 by Councillor Garner and which related to the Charter of Simon de Montfort granted to the Burgesses of Leicester around 1231. It was noted that the petitioners were asking the City Council to formally revoke the Charter; however such action was not possible as the Charter was not the Council's to revoke. However the sentiments contained within the Charter were clearly an abhorrence and totally at variance with the celebration of diversity which was one of the most prominent features of the City as it entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It was therefore recommended that the Council renounce and repudiate the sentiments and prejudices which led to the grant of and any exercise of the Charter.

**RESOLVED:**

that the City Council be asked to renounce and repudiate the sentiments and prejudices which led to the grant and any exercise of the Charter of Simon de Montfort c1231.

**91. CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Councillor Patel submitted a report seeking the Cabinet's approval to the main Capital Programme 2001/2 for recommendation to Council.

It was noted that in 1999, the Council had approved a three year programme for the years 1999/2000 and 2001/02 and it was now recommended that the Council approved a one year programme for 2001/02 being the final year of the original programme. Some minor amendments had been proposed by the Labour Group and these were detailed in the report.

It was noted that the Finance, Resources and Equal Opportunities Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting in December, had asked that every effort be made to minimise the negative strategic and revenue effects of property disposal.

**RESOLVED:**

(1) that the following changes to the 2001/02 Capital Programme as proposed by the Labour Group be approved:-

- a) the original provision of £155,000 for the variable message signs schemes be deleted from the programme as it is not possible to carry out a viable scheme for the sum available, the scheme to be reconsidered if funds become available and the Director of Environment and Development to consider the availability of Local Transport Plan funding;
- b) the cost to complete the Land and Property Gazetteer scheme of £63,500 be added to the

programme to enable full use to be made of the Gazetteer;

- c) the Young Women's Unit of £239,000 be deleted from the capital programme if the Director of Social Services' proposed revenue strategy which makes alternative services proposals is endorsed;
  - d) an increase of £400,000 to the approved cost of the Victoria Road East Extension to £1.773 million following a re-assessment of costs and taking into account advice from the construction industry about the trend in prices, this scheme to facilitate the release of significant capital receipts in future years;
  - e) contribution of £300,000 towards the cost of the Lewisher Road Link be added to the programme which it is anticipated will be covered by additional capital receipts;
- (2) that the revised capital programme including the above and as detailed in the appendix to the report be approved for recommendation to Council;
  - (3) that approval be given for the inclusion of the Belgrave Public Convenience Scheme of £93,000 if the results of arbitration are in favour of the City Council;
  - (4) that the target for capital receipts, being the remainder of the original target of £14.86 million set in 1999 plus ringfenced receipts of £465,000 be as follows:-

For the two years 2000/02 and 2001/02 combined:-

Operational property - £3.174 million

Non-operational property - £8.649 million

- (5) that every effort be made to achieve the respective targets for operational and non-operational property receipts but if there is a remaining shortfall on operational property receipts, the Director of Environment and Development be asked to advise on further sales needed to achieve the capital receipts target; and
- (6) that given that the programme is essentially the existing one, the technical requirement to consult Scrutiny Committees be waived.

## **92. COLLECTION FUND SURPLUSES**

Councillor Patel submitted a report which highlighted the estimated position of the Collection Fund Account as at 31 March 2001. It was noted that calculating the estimated surplus or deficit for this account was a statutory requirement as the figure needed to be taken into account during the Council Tax setting process.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the estimated Collection Fund surplus figure of £395,000 be approved; and
- (2) that the estimated shares payable to the Police Authority and the Council as detailed in the report be approved.

## **93. COUNCIL TAX - TAXBASE**

Councillor Patel submitted a report seeking approval to a "taxbase" for the purpose of setting the Council Tax and to enable the Police Authority to set its tax.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the proposals in the report be endorsed; and
- (2) that Council be recommended to approve a taxbase for 2001/2002 of 70,431 properties expressed as the equivalent number of "Band D" properties.

## **94. EDUCATION BUDGET STRATEGY**

Councillor Subedar submitted a report recommending a revenue budget for the Education Department and proposed additional delegation to schools in 2001/02, following consultation with schools.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the growth proposals as set out in Appendix A be approved;
- (2) that the additional growth pressures to be funded from additional funds as set out in Appendix B be approved;
- (3) that the proposals for additional delegation as set out in Appendix C be approved;
- (4) that the base budget as set out in Appendix D to the report be approved;
- (5) that the strategy contained in Appendix E for dealing with contingencies be approved; and

- (6) that the Education and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee be asked to consider the decision of Cabinet regarding the budget.

**95. RETURN OF FINANCIAL DELEGATION - QUEENSMEAD JUNIOR SCHOOL**

Councillor Subedar presented a report asking the Cabinet to approve the return of financial delegation to Queensmead Junior School. It was noted that in February 1998 the Education Committee had withdrawn delegation from the school amidst significant concerns over the financial and educational management of the school. A subsequent OFSTED inspection had placed the school in special measures. Over the past two years however a great amount of progress had been made by the school with the support of the Education Department and the school was no longer deemed to be requiring special measures. Officers within the Education Department, in conjunction with the school, now believed that the school was able and capable of discharging its role and duties effectively and efficiently.

The Cabinet wished to extend its thanks to the staff and the governing body of the school and the officers in the Education Department for their hard work in achieving this progress.

RESOLVED:

that financial delegation be returned to Queensmead Junior School with effect from 1 February 2001.

**96. ANNUAL LIBRARY PLAN 2000**

Councillor Subedar submitted a report which incorporated the draft Annual Library Plan for Leicester for 2000.

RESOLVED:

that the draft Annual Library Plan for 2000 be endorsed.

**97. REVIEW OF LEICESTER CITY LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES 2000**

Councillor Subedar submitted a report detailing the recommendations arising from a review of Leicester City Libraries and Information Services. Councillor Subedar also reported the views of the Education and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee as follows:-

- i) Support for the vision contained in the Review Report.
- ii) Reinforcement of the commitment to adequate revenue support to implement the Review.
- iii) Underlined the need for sufficient short term capital to implement the Review.
- iv) A clear commitment to the early development of a new Central

Library.

- v) Requests a six month report on the progress of the implementation of the Review.
- vi) Requests a report on the Record Office through Libraries Best Value Review.
- vii) Calls on the Education Department to initiate a survey of school library budget arrangements.

David Williams from UNISON circulated a paper detailing the Union's comments and he also addressed the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the views of Scrutiny be endorsed;
- (2) that category 1 recommendations be utilised as a contribution to the department's revenue budget strategy for 2001/02;
- (3) that categories 2 and 3 recommendations for the redirection of resources and more effective use of existing resources to implement service delivery initiatives detailed in the report, under the Director's delegated powers in consultation with the Cabinet Lead be approved; and
- (4) that category 4 recommendations be built into the Arts and Leisure Department's three year budget strategy as detailed in the report, submitting future details each year within the department's proposed revenue budget strategies 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05.

## **98. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - BUDGET 2001/02**

Councillor Draycott submitted a report which summarised the financial position of the Housing Revenue Account for 2000/01 and 2001/02 and set out the options for Members in deciding the 2001/02 rent level, for recommendation to Council. Councillor Draycott tabled a proposed resolution which included a recommendation for a 1% reduction in rents which would mean that the Council's rents were below the Government's rent cap.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the estimated working balance of £1.786 million to be carried forward to 2001/2002, be noted;
- (2) that the Cabinet approve the 2001/2002 budget outlined at Appendix A of the report with the following amendments:-

- (i) that £700,000 of repairs expenditure be charged to the Housing Capital Programme; and
  - (ii) that £124,000 of the cost of providing tenant/resident consultation be transferred to the General Fund;
- (3) that a service development bid of £124,000 for the appointment of six Development Workers to support the new Community Associations proposed under Tenant Compacts, be approved;
  - (4) that all rent applied to dwellings, garages, parking spaces, targeted rents etc, be reduced by 1% in 2001/2002;
  - (5) that no increase be applied to district heating and hot water charges in 2001/2002; and
  - (6) that the recommendations of the Director of Housing and the Chief Financial Officer on the list of miscellaneous charges and payments as detailed in Appendix D of the report, be approved.

**99. HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2000/2001 AND 2001/2002**

Councillor Draycott submitted a report reviewing the current year's approved Housing Capital Programme and, following receipt of the Council's housing investment allocation recommending a programme for 2001/2002.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) that the revised programme for 2000/2001, as detailed in Appendix A of the report, be approved;
- (2) that it be noted that the City Council had been designated for the third year running by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, as one of only 28 authorities out of 354 in the country, as a "well above average housing authority", which is the highest designation an authority can get under the Housing Investment Programme process and note that this achievement puts the Council amongst the top 8% of housing authorities in the country;
- (3) that it be noted that the Authority's Housing Investment Programme allocation, excluding Disabled Facilities Grants for 2001/2002 was 17.18% up on the 2000/2001 figure and in addition, Leicester's allocation for disabled facilities grants was up by 35.85% compared to a national average of 18.11%, meaning that in total, resources to support capital expenditure from

Government was up by over 100% in the last two years;

- (4) that approval be given for the use of resources shown in paragraph 2.3 of the supporting information in the report, including the use of £200,000 from Housing Maintenance DSO profits, to support the Housing Capital Programme in 2001/2002;
- (5) that approval be given for the Housing Capital Programme for 2001/2002 as detailed in Appendix B of the report, which showed an overall spend of £25.405 million and allowed for a small amount of over-programming (2.63%);
- (6) that approval be given for the capitalisation of £700,000 of expenditure currently charged to the Housing Revenue Account;
- (7) that it be noted that under the programme the Council will, in the next financial year, spend:-

£4.5 million on UPVC double glazed windows (2,600 properties)

£700,000 on rewiring (700 properties)

£1.2 million on reroofing (600 dwellings)

£2.2 million on new central heating/district heating systems

£1.25 million on kitchen and bathroom modernisations

£400,000 on new door entry systems

£2.4 million on disabled adaptations and disabled facility grants

£150,000 on providing showers and lifts in Warden Assisted Accommodation

£600,000 for one-off bungalow extensions

Provide £120,000, in addition to the £30,000 already provided under the environmental budget, for initiatives in each of the six Community Association/Tier 2 areas;

- (8) that a further report be presented to a future meeting outlining the criteria under which Community Associations can recommend schemes for their areas; and



- (9) that a further report be presented outlining the schemes proposed under the neighbourhood strategy.

#### **100. CRITERIA FOR APPROVING A NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS SCHEME**

Councillor Draycott submitted a report seeking approval for the introduction of an agreed criteria against which prospective Neighbourhood Warden Schemes could be assessed.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the adoption of the criteria as detailed in the report and the use of them as a basis for assessing future neighbourhood warden schemes, be approved;
- (2) that prospective schemes should be initially assessed against the criteria by the management group of Leicester Partnership Against Crime and Disorder and that the Management Group should then recommend whether or not the City Council and other partners should approve the proposed scheme.

#### **101. FUTURE PROGRAMME OF AREA RENEWAL - DECLARATION OF NON STATUTORY RENEWAL AREAS**

Councillor Draycott submitted a report which identified disrepair in private sector housing. It was noted that based upon the Renewal Strategy, the priority areas for investment were New Humberstone and St. Saviours. However it was noted that New Humberstone was in the SRB6 area and therefore any funding could be maximised. Councillor Draycott therefore recommended that New Humberstone be declared a non-statutory renewal area and that a further report be submitted at the end of the year for St. Saviour's and Abbey Lane, Swainson Road and Windsor Avenue, when the financial position was known.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the unsatisfactory living conditions identified in the report be addressed by declaring a non-statutory renewal area for New Humberstone; and
- (2) that a further report be submitted at the end of the year for St. Saviour's and Abbey Lane, Swainson Road and Windsor Avenue when financial resources were known.

#### **102. BRAUNSTONE NEW DEAL MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Councillor Draycott submitted a report proposing the establishment of a Neighbourhood Management Board in partnership with New Deal and other service providers to replace the existing Statutory Agencies Group in Braunstone.

RESOLVED:

that a Neighbourhood Management Board as detailed in the report be set up to replace the Statutory Agencies Group in Braunstone.

### **103. TENANT PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL HOUSING**

Councillor Draycott submitted a report which informed Cabinet of the deliberations of the Housing Scrutiny Committee with regard to the above item following a decision taken in principle by the Cabinet on 6 November. The Cabinet also received the report that went to Housing Scrutiny detailing the outcome of consultation with tenants. It was noted that if the proposed new arrangements for tenant participation were implemented this would mean that:-

- (a) a Landlord Board would be formed as set out in the report and that Scrutiny Committee would be advised of its membership;
- (b) six Community Associations would be formed;
- (c) six new workers would be recruited by the Council to develop new tenant associations and increase tenant participation from under-represented groups, with their location and workload being determined by the Director in consultation with the Community Association;
- (d) premises would be identified for a permanent office for each Community Association;
- (e) funding for Leicester Federation of Tenants Associations would cease from the date of the new arrangements.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that six new worker posts be created and premises located for Community Associations funded from the Housing Revenue Account; and
- (2) that following the consultation with tenants and consideration by Scrutiny Committee, the new arrangements for tenant participation be confirmed and implemented.

### **104. SAFER ROUTES STRATEGY, ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY AND CASUALTY REDUCTION TARGETS**

Councillor Osman submitted a report seeking the Cabinet's approval to the development of a Road Safety Strategy mainly based around the introduction of Area Safer Route Projects in order to assist in reducing the number of casualties in the City, particularly involving children.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the new targets to reduce those killed and seriously

injured by 40% by 2010 and the specific target to reduce children killed and seriously injured by 50% during the same period be welcomed;

- (2) that approval be given in principle that the reduction in child casualties will be achieved mainly by adopting an area wide approach to reducing road danger by implementing the following programme of area wide Safer Routes projects which is based upon crashes involving children;

|           |                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 2001/2002 | North Braunstone, Rowley Fields    |
| 2002/2003 | Eyres Monsell, Saffron, Aylestone, |
| 2003/2004 | New Parks                          |
| 2004/2005 | Humberstone, Thurncourt            |
| 2005/2006 | Knighton                           |
| 2006/2007 | Westcotes, Western Park            |
| 2007/2008 | Stoneygate, Crown Hills,           |
| 2008/2009 | St Augustines                      |
| 2009/2010 | Stadium/Anstey Lane                |
| 2010/2011 | Hazel Street/Holy Trinity          |

- (3) that approval be given that in addition to those areas listed in recommendation 3.2, that Safer Routes projects will be developed in conjunction with Single Regeneration Budget schemes, including Beaumont Leys during 2001/2002 and Greater Humberstone during 2002/2003, the New Deal for Communities in Braunstone and for individual schools outside the Safer Route Areas as part of area wide traffic calming schemes where practicable;
- (4) that the Director of Environment and Development be authorised to alter the order for implementing the Safer Routes schemes in the light of changes in the pattern of Child Casualties or when alternative sources of funding become available and report any changes to the priority order to Highways & Transportation Scrutiny Committee at the same time as the priority order for traffic calming is reviewed;
- (5) that the actions outlined in Appendix 2 of the report which the City Council will need to undertake as part of a road safety strategy be noted, and that a further report be submitted outlining a Road Safety Strategy for the City in due course;
- (6) that it be noted that a speed management strategy for the Central Leicestershire Area, including the provision of speed cameras is being drawn up through the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Road Safety Partnership, and that prior to public consultation

members will be requested to approve it;

- (7) that it be confirmed that the priority lists for traffic calming in the city previously agreed by Urban Management Sub-Committee will continue to be used to prepare programmes to introduce traffic calming in the city, prior to a full review of priorities in early 2002 which will be considered by Highways and Transportation Scrutiny Committee.

## **105. PASTURE LANE WAITING RESTRICTIONS**

Councillor Osman submitted a report detailing the history of this issue following the challenge by Councillors Chohan and Sood of the decision of the Planning and Transportation Committee taken on 2 August 2000 which resolved that it be confirmed that the recently introduced waiting restrictions and the widened footway were appropriate for the area as a whole and should be retained. Further to the report Councillor Osman reported that he had subsequently had representations from Ward Members and the Shree Wanza Community Centre and following a site visit yesterday wished to amend the recommendation to ask the Director of Environment and Development to investigate the possibility of implementing an order which would change the restriction on the north side of the end of the cul-de-sac and also to propose that the feasibility of providing of a pedestrian crossing be investigated.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (1) that the decisions of the former Urban Management Sub-Committee, former Environment and Development Committee and former Planning and Transportation Committee be endorsed and the existing waiting restrictions be confirmed and the cycleway on Pasture Lane retained;
- (2) that the Director of Environment and Development investigate the possibility of an experimental order for the road opposite the Shree Wanza Community Centre being single yellow line; and
- (3) that the Director of Environment and Development investigate the feasibility of providing a pelican crossing to improve access to parking in Abbey Park;
- (4) that it be confirmed that the review of traffic orders throughout the City be continued with the aim of ensuring that consistent and justifiable restrictions were imposed wherever they were considered necessary, with the ultimate aim of gaining decriminalised parking enforcement powers; and
- (5) that Councillor Osman investigate with officers means of speeding up the process of introducing residents'

parking.

**106. URBAN WHITE PAPER**

Councillor Roberts submitted a report in response to the publication of the Urban White Paper and proposing a letter to be sent to the Secretary of State as the City Council's response.

RESOLVED:

that a letter making representations described in the report be sent to the Secretary of State.

**107. BEST VALUE REVIEW PROGRAMME YEAR 2**

Councillor Willmott submitted a report proposing amendments to the Best Value Review Programme in year 2 in the light of experience and new information.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the changes to the review programme, as detailed in the report be approved; and
- (2) that the performance and priority information in relation to the review programme be noted.

**108. ELECTED MEMBERS' ABSENCE FROM MEETINGS**

The Town Clerk submitted a report informing the Committee of the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 which provided that if a member of a local authority was absent from meetings for a period of six consecutive months she or he automatically ceased to be a member of the authority unless an extension of this period was approved by Council. It was noted that Councillor Nasim had been seriously ill in hospital over a period of time longer than six months and therefore it was recommended that Council be asked to extend the period in line with the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that having regard to the extenuating circumstances, as considered by the Group Whips, Council be recommended to grant an extension of time for Councillor Nasim;
- (2) that the position be reviewed prior to the expiry of a further four months; and
- (3) that Council be recommended to delegate consideration of such extensions of time to the Standards Committee when established.

**110. HOUSING OPTIONS FOR WEBSTER ROAD/WELLINGER WAY**

A report on this issue was on the private agenda. However, it had subsequently been moved to the public agenda by the Director of Housing.

Councillor Draycott submitted a report seeking approval to consult with local residents on the future of the above area in North Braunstone. It was noted that the area had suffered from low demand that had led to an increasing number of empty properties which was blighting the area and affecting adjoining areas.

**RESOLVED:**

that consultation take place with residents of the area shown on the map in the report, residents of adjacent properties, Ward Councillors and Braunstone Community Association on the following options:-

- (i) Demolish 278 properties and the site maintained until a future use is determined.
- (ii) Demolish only those properties in the worst affected area (part of Webster Road) and the site maintained until a future use is determined.
- (iii) No change but with planned improvements being introduced in tenanted properties.
- (iv) Transfer all 278 properties to a housing association.
- (v) Transfer only the empty properties in the worst affected area to a housing association.

**111. ROWLATTS HILL TOWER BLOCK SITE REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

A report on this issue was on the private agenda. However, as a substantial part of the report was not confidential, the 'public' aspects of the report were considered in the public session.

Councillor Draycott submitted a report providing the Cabinet with an update on the redevelopment of the Rowlatts Hill Tower Block Site. It was noted that competition had been held to choose a developer partner to redevelop the vacant tower block site and the vacant public house site. As a result of the competition it was proposed that around 40 new homes would be built on the site to provide high quality homes by the end of the year.

**RESOLVED:**

that the process of selecting a developer for the site be approved and the proposals for the future use be noted.

## **112. PRIVATE SESSION**

### **RESOLVED:**

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.

- i) Housing Options for Webster Road/Wellinger Way
- ii) Rowlatts Hill Tower Block and Public House Site

#### Paragraph 12

Any instructions to counsel and any opinion of counsel (whether or not in connection with any proceedings) and any advice received, information obtained or action to be taken in connection with:

- a) any legal proceedings by or against the authority; or
  - b) the determination of any matter affecting the authority,  
(whether, in either case, proceedings have been commenced or are in contemplation).
- iii) 12 Blanklyn Avenue

## **113. HOUSING OPTIONS FOR WEBSTER ROAD/WELLINGER WAY**

It was noted that this item had been moved onto the public agenda.

## **114. ROWLATTS HILL TOWER BLOCK AND PUBLIC HOUSE SITE**

Councillor Draycott submitted a report seeking approval to the terms of the redevelopment contract and for the disposal of the redundant public house site.

### **RESOLVED:**

that the recommendations in the report be approved.

**115. 12 BLANKLYN AVENUE**

Councillor Patel submitted a report seeking approval to apply for the registration of statutory charges against the above property.

**RESOLVED:**

that application be made for registration of the charges detailed in the report against 12 Blanklyn Avenue, Leicester at HM Land Registry and that it be noted that the charges concerned are already registered as local land charges.

**116. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 6.36pm.

**109. AGENDA NOTE: MEMBER ISSUE RAISED BY HOUSING DEPARTMENT STAFF**

The Town Clerk reported that at the Council meeting on 30 November 2000, he was asked to report on an investigation into a matter concerning Councillor Blackmore, raised by Housing Department staff. As this was a Standards Committee issue and this Committee had not yet been constituted it fell to be considered by the full Council.

**RESOLVED:**

that the Council consider a report by the Town Clerk on his investigation into the matter raised by Housing Department staff.