



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CABINET

Held: MONDAY, 21 JUNE 2010 at 1:00 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Dempster - Chair

Councillor Bhatti
Councillor Naylor
Councillor Palmer
Councillor Wann

Councillor Dawood
Councillor Osman
Councillor Russell
Councillor Westley

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1. CHAIR OF MEETING

In the absence of Councillor Patel, Councillor Dempster took the Chair.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Patel, Potter and Grant.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have in the business on the agenda, and/or declare that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act applied to them. No such declarations were made.

4. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair read the following Statement:

“Since the formation of the new Westminster government much has changed, however, our vision for Leicester to be a city with confidence, resilience, and prosperity remains unchanged.

“Since 2007 when Labour took back control of the city council, Leicester has renewed. We have opened Highcross, Curve and Phoenix Square. We have opened new schools, giving life-changing opportunities to our city’s young people. We have delivered real change and improvements across all our communities. We now have city wardens in every ward, tackling crime and

grime. We have launched our pensioners' passport, One Pass, unlocking new discounts for older people. We are well on the way to planting our 10,000 trees – realising our vision for Leicester to be a greener city. In recent years Leicester has been transformed. NHS investment is making a real difference across the city. We have new health centres delivered in partnership with the council.

“We have done what we said we would do. We have taken action to renew Leicester since 2007; driving forward a city with confidence and ambition.

“No one here needs reminding about the challenges we face in relation to the public finances. The new government has, and is, threatening to bring the axe to important streams of public investment. Some of these schemes had within them commitments to Leicester. People should be under no illusion that these cuts are hitting and will hit Leicester. We already know that the nature of the government's cuts will hit already deprived areas the hardest.

“Already we see real uncertainty about the future of the Future Jobs Fund: investment which is giving people real opportunities to retrain and get into work. There is real risk to significant investment via EMDA, monies which are intended to shape the next phase of Leicester's regeneration – the Science Park and New Business Quarter. Major projects which will generate enterprise, bring money into our economy and create new jobs for local people.

“Late last week we saw the axe fall on the grant which fund the hugely popular free swimming for the under-16s. A scheme in Leicester which is much needed in terms of our public health priorities but also in relation to positive activities for young people and tackling anti-social behaviour.

“To cut this grant just weeks before the school summer holidays sends a clear message about the nature of the cuts we face.

“These cuts from the Conservative/ Liberal Democrat coalition government are ideological. And let me say clearly now: this Labour Cabinet's response to them is also ideological. Our ideology is one of commitment to our frontline services, to protecting and working with all our communities and to continue delivering our One Leicester vision. Our ideology is about a confident and positive city: proud of what we have achieved and determined about the future. That determination requires tough and important decisions.

“And on that basis we are deferring the following reports from today's Cabinet agenda:

Item 10: Investing in our Children Capital Programme

Item 12: Car park improvements at Watermead Park

Item 14: Rally Park and Abbey Meadows Strategic Green Infrastructure Projects

Item 15: Procurement of Surface Water Management Plan Study

Item 16: Corporate Capital Programme 2010/11 Local Environmental Works

“This does not mean the projects and plans outlined in these reports will not

happen. This will give us time to assess properly the impact of the Government's cuts so far and also tomorrow's Budget statement. We will do this and bring forward reports to future Cabinet meetings. We intend to discuss the full implications of the cuts and what they mean for Leicester and our priorities. We will have discussions with our political colleagues, fellow councillors and other stakeholders. We understand the needs of our communities. We also know the challenges facing Leicester. We have a vision for strong communities and a bold, prosperous city. As we assess the impact of the cuts and consider what they mean for this council, our values of equality and social justice will drive us. We will protect frontline services, maintain our commitment to Leicester's communities, and continue to work for a confident, aspirational city."

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet, held on 17 May 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET

RESOLVED:

that the membership of Cabinet for the municipal year 2010-2011 be noted.

7. DATES OF CABINET MEETINGS

Members were asked to note the dates of Cabinet meetings for the municipal year 2010-2011, as listed in the agenda.

RESOLVED:

that dates of Cabinet meetings for the municipal year 2010-2011, as listed in the agenda be noted.

8. MEMBERSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKING PARTY

Cabinet were asked to confirm that Councillor Westley be appointed as Vice-Chair of the International Development Working Party.

RESOLVED:

that Cabinet confirms that Councillor Westley be appointed as Vice-Chair of the International Development Working Party.

9. MATTERS REFERRED FROM COMMITTEES

There were no matters referred from Committees.

10. REPORT OF THE ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY TASK GROUP: HOUSING REPAIRS REVIEW

Cabinet agreed to defer consideration of this item, due to apologies being sent from Councillor Potter, who was due to present the report.

11. INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010-11 TO 2011-2013

This item was deferred.

12. OFSTED INSPECTION OF SAFEGUARDING AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Councillor Dempster submitted a report that advised on the new Ofsted inspection of children's services in relation to safeguarding and looked after children.

RESOLVED:

that Cabinet:

- 1) notes the report; and
- 2) notes the work completed to date in preparation for the inspection together with the work planned for the next quarter and beyond.

13. CAR PARK IMPROVEMENTS AT WATERMEAD COUNTRY PARK

This item was deferred.

14. LICENSING OF SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES

Councillor Russell submitted a report that advised Cabinet of the introduction of new licensing powers to regulate lap dancing and other sexual entertainment venues and to seek Cabinet's approval for the proposed course of action.

The comments of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board were noted, and it was reported that there would be further opportunity for Members to engage with the consultation.

RESOLVED:

that Cabinet:

- 1) approves the proposed timetable,
- 2) approves the proposed consultation arrangements, and
- 3) asks full Council to adopt the provision that will enable Leicester City Council to licence sexual entertainment venues.

15. RALLY PARK AND ABBEY MEADOWS STRATEGIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

This item was deferred.

16. PROCUREMENT OF A SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN STUDY

This item was deferred.

17. CORPORATE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11 LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS (LEW) PROGRAMME

This item was deferred.

18. 2009/10 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING - OUTTURN

Councillor Dempster submitted a report that showed the outturn position of the capital programme for 2009/10.

The comments of the Performance & Value for Money Select Committee were noted and it was confirmed that Councillor Patel, as Cabinet Lead would attend a future meeting at an appropriate point in the future.

RESOLVED:

that Cabinet:

- 1) notes the outturn capital expenditure of £96.592m;
- 2) notes the final capital receipts received of £656K;
- 3) notes the prudential indicators for 2009/10;
- 4) approves the release of £309k from the Centrally Located Administration Buildings (CLAB) capital budget to fund activities undertaken in 2009/10 and an option appraisal project being undertaken in respect of the accommodation strategy; and
- 5) agrees the proposal to cease the former requirement to use operational capital receipts to deliver revenue savings.

19. REVENUE OUTTURN 2009/10

Councillor Dempster submitted a report that showed the final summary outturn position, comparing spending with the budget for all General Fund Services and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

Councillor Dempster thanked Members and officers for the achievements in a difficult financial climate.

RESOLVED:

that Cabinet notes:

- 1) the final outturn for 2009/10 for each division and the Council as a whole;
- 2) the reasons for the variances between the 2009/10 budget and the final outturn;
- 3) the position of the Council's General Fund and the HRA balances;
- 4) the position in respect of significant earmarked reserves;
- 5) the write-off of old and obsolete stock as per paragraph 8.10.11 of the report;
- 6) the proposals for the use of under spends.

that Cabinet approves:

- 7) a waiver of Finance Procedure Rules allowing the aggregation of trading and non-trading budgets by division in order to achieve break-even (FPR 4.15);
- 8) the creation of new reserves set out in paragraph 12.22;
- 9) the carry forward of unspent 2009/10 Ward Community budgets for use by Ward Community meetings in 2010/11; and
- 10) the setting aside of £2m from Corporate underspends to support the Capital Programme.

20. REVIEW OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2009-10

Councillor Dempster submitted a report that presented the result of a review of the Council's System of Internal control.

RESOLVED:

that Cabinet:

- 1) receives the report and agrees the conclusion that the Council has an effective system of internal control; and
- 2) endorses the Annual Governance Statement 2009-10 (Appendix 1) for inclusion within the Council's published

Annual Finance Statements.

21. AREA BASED GRANT 2010-11

Members were advised that this report had been withdrawn.

22. PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR QUARTER FOUR 2009/10

Councillor Dempster submitted a report that presented a summary of performance against the priorities set out in *One Leicester* for the fourth quarter of 2009/10.

Officers were thanked for their significant work in the light of the current economic situation.

RESOLVED:

that Cabinet:

- 1) notes the performance for the fourth quarter;
- 2) for those targets deemed to be at risk, ensure that relevant Strategic Directors work with their Priority Boards to develop responses and ensure Cabinet Leads are briefed accordingly.

23. 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 involved the likely disclosure of 'exempt' information, as defined in the Paragraph 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.

PROGRESS ON THE TRANSFER OF THE HIGHFIELDS CENTRE

Paragraph 3

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

Paragraph 4

Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

DISPOSAL OF RESIDENTIAL LAND TO HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

Paragraph 3

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

CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES WAIVERS– OCTOBER 2009 to MARCH 2010

Paragraph 3

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

24. PROGRESS ON THE TRANSFER OF THE HIGHFIELDS CENTRE

Councillor Bhatti submitted a report that highlighted progress that had been made towards the transfer of the Highfields Centre and community services element.

Members were informed of an amendment to recommendation 3.3, as circulated at the meeting, which replaced proposed actions included in Paragraph 4.7 to 4.24 in the report.

Members welcomed that fact that considerable progress had been made, and that it was important to continue this, to meet the expectations of all parties and that legal costs should be minimised.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet approves the recommendations set out in the report, as amended and reported to the meeting.

25. DISPOSALS OF RESIDENTIAL LAND TO HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

Councillor Westley submitted a report that advised on progress with proposals to facilitate affordable housing on land to be sold to housing associations, and to obtain necessary authority to those sales.

RESOLVED:

that Cabinet approves the recommendations as set out in the report.

26. CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES WAIVERS - OCTOBER 2009 TO MARCH 2010

Councillor Dempster submitted a report that provided Members with a summary of Contract Procedure Rule waivers.

RESOLVED:

that Cabinet notes the summary of Contract Procedure Rule

waivers summarised in Appendix 1 of the report.

27. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 1.26pm.