



Leicester  
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
CABINET

Held: MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2001 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Willmott - Chair  
Councillor Patel - Vice-Chair

Councillor Draycott  
Councillor Getliffe  
Councillor Holden  
Councillor Kavia

Councillor Osman  
Councillor Roberts  
Councillor Subedar  
Councillor Westley

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**96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked 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.

Councillors Getliffe and Roberts declared an interest in Appendix A, 'Housing Options in Braunstone', as council tenants and referred to their dispensation from the Secretary of State to speak and vote.

**97. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Race Relations

Three ways in which the Council was actively involved locally and nationally in promoting harmonious community relations at the present time were announced:-

- a) Councillor Willmott referred to a meeting that he and the Chief Executive had attended in London, with 11 other Local Authorities, to discuss race relations issues in the light of the recent unrest in Oldham, Bradford and Burnley. The meeting was attended by Angela Eagle, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Barbara Roche, Minister of State at the Cabinet Office, Gurbux Singh, Chair of the Commission for Racial Equality and Sir Jeremy Beecham, Chair of

the Local Government Association.

- b) Councillor Willmott reported that the City Council was about to receive a visit from the Community Cohesion Task Force, as an Authority with examples of good practice in race relations.
- c) Councillor Willmott reported that a member of staff in the Social Services Department, as a result of their expertise and experience, had been seconded to the Home Office to co-ordinate a helpline in relation to the recent terrorist attacks in the United States.

## **98. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 10 September 2001, having been circulated to Members be received, taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## **99. PRESENTATION - CONSERVATION AREAS**

Councillor Kavia introduced a presentation on the work carried out by the Council with regard to Conservation Areas in the City.

RESOLVED:-

That the presentation be noted.

## **100. FURTHER HOUSING OPTIONS FOR WEBSTER ROAD, WELLINGER WAY, HOLLINS ROAD, HAND AVENUE, HOCKLEY FARM ROAD AND GALLARDS HILL IN THE BRAUNSTONE NEW DEAL AREA**

Councillor Draycott submitted a report detailing two options for the above streets in North Braunstone. It was noted that a decision had been taken in principle by the Cabinet on 8 May 2001, to demolish the above area arising from the results of a ballot of tenants. However, since then, further discussions had taken place between the Braunstone Community Association and residents to develop an alternative proposal and a petition had also been received signed by 98 local households requesting that their homes not be demolished. It was proposed therefore to ballot tenants on the two options and the Cabinet was asked to delegate to the Director of Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead for Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal, the authority to produce consultation material and commission a ballot on the two options and adopt the majority decision of the ballot as Council policy.

The Director of Housing clarified the position with regard to the 'Right to Buy' and rights of succession of Council tenants. It was noted that if a resident remained as a Council tenant, they would continue to have rights of succession and 'Right to Buy'. However, if the 'redevelopment' option was

chosen and the tenant wished to move back to a redeveloped property with a Housing Association landlord, rights to succession and 'Right to Buy' would be lost.

It was noted that the ballot would be carried out by an independent body and that tenants would receive full information on the proposals prior to the ballot to allow time to absorb the information and ask questions if necessary. It was also noted that both the Council and the Braunstone Community Association had agreed to abide by the majority decision of the ballot.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Director of Housing be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal, to:-
  - a) produce balanced consultation material to enable residents to make an informed choice and commission a ballot of all tenants, residents and shop lessees in the affected area, on the two options
  - b) adopt the decision of the ballot as Council policy and proceed with the detailed work and negotiations to take forward the winning proposal
- (2) that the decision be based on a simple majority of the ballot.

#### **101. REPORT ON THE DRAFT LEA OFSTED ACTION PLAN**

Councillor Roberts submitted a report presenting the post OFSTED Action Plan which had been submitted to the DfES and OFSTED. The Cabinet was asked to receive the plan as a basis for action required to address the recommendations in the OFSTED report.

RESOLVED:

That the post OFSTED Action Plan be received as the basis for the action required to address the recommendations in the OFSTED report.

#### **102. EMAS ACTION PROGRAMME - ANNUAL REVIEW**

Councillor Holden submitted a report presenting the Annual Review of the EMAS Action Programme with the progress made on actions and the new actions designed to move the Council forward in meeting the targets it has set for environmental improvement.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the revisions to the EMAS Action Programme be

endorsed; and

- (2) that the Action Programme be referred to the Arts, Leisure and Environment Scrutiny Committee for monitoring of implementation.

### **103. TORONTO DECLARATION**

Councillor Willmott submitted a report informing the Cabinet of the signing by him of the Toronto Declaration formulated following the Toronto Summit on Climate Change held in June 2001. It was noted that the Declaration reaffirmed the City Council's commitment to reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions within the City.

Councillor Willmott thanked officers for their support and advice.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Toronto Declaration, be endorsed;
- (2) that Leicester's achievements in reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, be noted and;
- (3) that further reports be received on future energy policy and strategy.

### **104. LEICESTERSHIRE, LEICESTER AND RUTLAND WASTE LOCAL PLAN**

Councillor Kavia submitted a report informing the Cabinet of the findings of the Inspector's Report into the above Plan and seeking approval of proposed responses to the Inspector's recommendations and consequent amendments to the Plan.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Statement of Response to the Inspector's report and the proposed modifications to the Deposit Draft Waste Local Plan, be approved, for publication, subject to agreement being given by Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council; and
- (2) that the Director of Environment, Development and Commercial Services be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Strategic Planning and Regeneration, to make any editing or other non material changes that do not alter the principles in the Plan.

**105. PROPOSED REFURBISHMENT OF SAFFRON LANE SPORTS CENTRE ATHLETICS TRACK**

Councillor Holden submitted a report detailing the progress made regarding the proposed refurbishment of Saffron Lane Sports Centre athletics track and seeking approval to proceed with the submission of a Stage 1 Lottery Bid to Sport England.

**RESOLVED:**

That the progress be noted and approval be given for a Stage 1 Lottery Bid to be submitted.

**106. EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Councillor Roberts submitted a report seeking approval to a revised 2001/02 Education Capital Programme, following notification of new grant funding since the original Programme was agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) that the action of the Director, taken in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Education and Lifelong Learning, in respect of the Schools Access Initiative; Condition Focussed Capital – Health and Safety works; and Minor Works – mobile classrooms, be noted;
- (2) that the additional Capital allocations from the Department for Education and Skills, be noted; and
- (3) that the revised Capital Programme of £23.031 million, as detailed in the report, be approved.

**107. BASE BUDGET PREPARATION 2002/03**

Councillor Patel submitted a report explaining the process by which the Council's 2002/03 base budget was being prepared and summarising the principles supporting this process. The Cabinet was asked to endorse the framework and approve the cash limits for departments. It was noted that the Finance, Resources and Equal Opportunitites Scrutiny Committee had endorsed the report.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) that the framework for base budget preparation, be endorsed; and
- (2) that the cash limits for each department, be approved.

**108. RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Councillor Patel submitted a report seeking approval to a risk management

policy statement and a risk management strategy for the Council.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Risk Management Policy, as detailed in the report, be adopted; and
- (2) that a Risk Management Strategy, as detailed in the report, be approved.

**109. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNUAL REPORT 2000 ON THE SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION TEAM**

The Chief Executive submitted a report enclosing his annual report on the performance of the Social Services Department's registration and inspection functions for submission to the Department of Health's Social Services Inspectorate.

It was noted this was the final year of such reports as from 1 September 2001 the Inspection process for under 8s would be carried out by OFSTED and from 1 April 2002, inspection services for adults and children's residential care would be carried out by the National Care Standards Commission.

It was noted that the Registration and Inspection Team had successfully completed all its statutory inspection targets. The Chief Executive thanked the Children's and Adults Advisory Panels, service providers, Voluntary Action Leicester, lay assessors and independent persons and all the staff involved, for their contribution to improvements in service.

RESOLVED:

that the report be received.

**110. STATUTORY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Councillor Patel submitted a report submitting the Statement of Accounts 2000/01 for approval, prior to audit and inspection.

RESOLVED:

That the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2000/01, be approved.

**111. AGENDA NOTE: POLITICAL CONVENTIONS**

The Town Clerk reported that the Political Conventions, introduced in 1998, required updating to reflect the Council's Cabinet/Scrutiny/Regulatory model of local governance. This updating process had been the subject of considerable and in-depth discussion, with final consideration by the Organisations Working Party, at its meeting on 20 September 2001.

RESOLVED:

That the revised Political Conventions, incorporating the General Principles and the Model Code, be put to the September full Council meeting for consideration and adoption.

## **112. 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.

FORMER MUNDELLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## **113. FORMER MUNDELLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Councillor Patel submitted a report on the future of the above site.

RESOLVED:

- (1) to note that, in order to gain greater public awareness and participation, the East Midlands Development Agency, had offered to extend its deadline for the election of a new management group for SRB6 Greater Humberstone, to be held by the end of November 2001;
- (2) that the Greater Humberstone Management Group's response to the Feasibility Study on the site adjacent to Arnold Lodge, be noted;
- (3) that an application be made to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for disposal/change of use of the site, as detailed in the report, on the basis that the site will be disposed of by the Council for a mixed use development;
- (3) that the Draft Site Development Guidance, as detailed in the report, be approved for public consultation and as a preliminary to the marketing of the site;

- (4) that the marketing and sale of the site be in accordance with paragraph 3.5 of the recommendations; and
- (5) that the report form the basis of a response to a petition referred to in paragraph 1.3 of the supporting information, to be submitted to the Strategic Planning and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

**114. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 6.40pm.



