



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CABINET

Held: MONDAY, 05 NOVEMBER 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 Kavia

Councillor Osman
Councillor Roberts
Councillor Subedar
Councillor Westley

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115. 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.

There were no declarations made.

116. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 September 2001, having been circulated to Members be received, taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

117. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Urban Renaissance Task Force

Councillor Willmott referred to a meeting which he and the Chief Executive had attended in London as part of the Urban Renaissance Task Force headed up by Lord Falconer. The aim of the meeting, which involved 24 towns and cities was to take forward consultation on the progressing of social and physical regeneration of towns and cities and focusing on a vision for the next 10-20 years.

b) Cohesive Communities Review

Councillor Willmott requested that Councillor Osman brief the Cabinet on the recent part played by the City Council in the above review. Councillor Osman reported that he had chaired a meeting of community representatives in Leicester, details of which were forwarded to the Cabinet Office in London and which had received favourable responses. It was noted that Leicester had been chosen to take part in the review because of its multicultural status and its record of good community relations.

118. SERVICE PROFILE - DAY SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

119. CULTURAL QUARTER

Councillor Holden submitted a report seeking the Cabinet's consideration and approval for the development of a Cultural Quarter in St George's south area of the City Centre. He commented that this issue had been widely reported in the local media and that various funding agencies such as East Midlands Arts and East Midlands Development Agency had already pledged support for the Cultural Quarter.

Various Cabinet Members spoke of their support for the project, noting the positive benefits for the City such as forging new cultural identity, the development of a brownfield site, and as a catalyst for regeneration and job creation.

The Cabinet noted that a commitment to Phase 1 of the project would result in a financial commitment of £6.6 million being made from the Council's capital resources over the period to 2005/06.

The Cabinet Lead for Arts, Leisure and Environment circulated a number of recommendations.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the concept of a Cultural Quarter in the St George's south area of the City Centre, comprising a new centre for the performing arts (with music venue), film and media centre, contemporary visual arts gallery and creative production facilities, be endorsed;
- (2) that the first phase of development consisting primarily of the Centre for the Performing Arts and the Creative Industries Production Facilities, at an estimated cost to the Council of £6.6 million, be approved, subject to compliance with the agreed Strategy for Management of risk, described in Appendix 2 of the supporting documentation to the report;

- (3) that the Director of Arts and Leisure, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Arts, Leisure and Environment, be authorised to procure Project Direction and Management support;
- (4) that the Council's contribution to the 1st phase of development be capped at £6.6 million and that project management be required to secure the delivery of the concept within that figure;
- (5) that within the £6.6 million, not more than £250,000 be spent on feasibility studies for later phases and £300,000 on the Creative Industries team, with the balance to be spent on the development of new facilities;
- (6) that the Director of Arts and Leisure be requested to negotiate a specification with the governing organisation to be created for the Centre for the Performing Arts, including certain conditions with regard to: -
 - flexible pricing structure to facilitate greater access
 - developing outreach work within educational and community settings to increase participation and attendance
 - active recruitment of disabled people and training for local people to enable them to effectively compete for new jobs created.
- (7) that a commitment to the development of affordable housing within the Cultural Quarter be approved and the Director of Arts and Leisure negotiate with the Director of Housing and private developers how this would be determined;
- (8) that it be noted that an increased contribution to revenue budget provision, estimated at £250,000 per annum from 2005/06 would be likely, to support the Performing Arts Centre (and the development of incubator units), acknowledging this is subject to a further more detailed business feasibility study and which could be offset to some extent through funds secured from Arts Council of England's drama review programme;
- (9) that agreement in principle be given to establishing a Cultural Quarter Development Partnership as an independently constituted body, to deliver the Cultural

Quarter of Leicester and that a further, more detailed report covering its constitution, terms of reference, timescale and funding implications be submitted in future; and

- (10) that the timescales be noted and further reports be submitted on the later phases of the Cultural Quarter, being the Film and Media Centre, the Contemporary Visual Arts Gallery, the Music Venue and further infrastructure improvements with estimated costs and potential contributions towards, to be determined by the outcome of the feasibility studies indicated.

120. PETITION BY MEMBERS AND USERS OF THE GREAT MEETING UNITARIAN CHAPEL, EAST BOND STREET REQUESTING THE REMOVAL OF A THREE SPACE PAY AND DISPLAY PARKING PLACE FROM OUTSIDE THEIR PREMISES

Councillor Subedar submitted a report which responded to a petition submitted to full Council on 30 November 2000 by Councillor Sood on behalf of the members and users of the Great Meeting Unitarian Church, East Bond Street who were requesting that the three parking bays in front of the Chapel be removed. Councillor Subedar outlined for the Cabinet the reasons, as detailed in the report, why the Director proposed to take no action in response to the petition. He particularly noted there were processes which currently operated successfully for the Methodist Church on Bishop Street, to suspend parking bays outside those premises when such events as weddings and funerals were taking place and the view of officers was that a similar arrangement could operate for the Great Meeting Unitarian Chapel.

It was noted that the Highways and Transportation Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 5 September, had supported the petitioners' and requested that the parking bays be removed, double yellow lines reinstated and the parking bays moved to the other side of the road. However, it was noted that the footway was not wide enough on the other side of the road to enable this.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the views of the Highways and Transportation Scrutiny Committee be noted but no further action be taken in response to the petition, and
- (2) that the petitioners be informed of the outcome.

121. BRAUNSTONE HALL

Councillor Patel submitted a report seeking approval to the granting of two consecutive leases to the Braunstone Community Association of Braunstone Hall together with the adjoining stable block and walled garden.

Councillor Willmott commented on the positive relations the Council had developed with the Braunstone Community Association and how the Government funding that their involvement attracted had enabled work to be carried out that the Council would not have been able to afford to fund.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the terms for the 5 year building lease and the 125 year occupational lease, as set out in the report, be approved;
- (2) that authority be delegated to the Director of Environment, Development and Commercial Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Members for Strategic Planning and Regeneration and Finance and Resources, to:-
 - (a) vary the terms reported in the event of circumstances arising which necessitate such a variation.
 - (b) take a lease back from the Braunstone Community Association, if required, to secure the continued occupation of part of the property for grounds maintenance depot or other operational purposes.
 - (c) to agree terms for an Agreement to Lease, if requested by the Braunstone Community Association; and
- (3) that the Head of Legal Services be authorised to enter in to the various agreements / leases referred to above.

122. VALUING PEOPLE: A NEW STRATEGY FOR LEARNING DISABILITY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Councillor Getliffe submitted a report introducing the recent White Paper 'Valuing People: A New Strategy For Learning Disability for the 21st Century'. The report also outlined proposals to set up a Learning Disability Partnership Board for Leicester.

It was noted that the Social Services and Personal Health Scrutiny Committee had recommended that there should be all party representation on the Board and that the Chair should be a Councillor.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that there be all party representation on the Learning Disability Partnership Board consisting of two Labour Members, 1 Liberal Democrat Member and one Conservative Member and that the Board should be Chaired by the Cabinet Lead for Social Services and

Personal Health;

- (2) that it be noted that, in order to meet the requirement to set up a Learning Disability Partnership Board for Leicester by 31 October 2001, an interim Board meeting to discuss draft terms of reference was held on 18 October 2001;
- (3) that the draft terms of reference be noted; and
- (4) that it be noted that The Learning Disability Partnership Board would operate as a sub-group of the Health Partnership Executive Board within the overall framework provided by the Local Strategic Partnerships.

123. OBJECTIVE 2 ACTION PLAN PROPOSALS

Councillor Kavia submitted a report on progress towards developing an Objective 2 programme in Leicester. He outlined for the Cabinet the key four Draft Expressions of Interest for Action Plans as endorsed by the Leicester Regeneration Agency, noting the St Georges Regeneration Strategy as being a priority.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the role of the Leicester Regeneration Agency in developing an Objective 2 Programme in Leicester, be noted;
- (2) that the Outline Action Plans set out in the report, be endorsed; and
- (3) that authority be delegated to the Director of Environment, Development and Commercial Services, in consultation with the Cabinet lead for Strategic Planning and Regeneration, to submit fully worked up Action Plans to the Government Office for the East Midlands.

124. LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AREA - SAFETY CAMERA SCHEME NATIONAL ROLLOUT

Councillor Subedar submitted a report regarding a proposal that the Council submit a joint bid with Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils, the Chief Constable, the Highway Agency, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Courts, to be part of the national rollout of enforcement cameras from April 2002.

Cabinet Members welcomed the opportunity to contribute to reducing the number of accidents on the City's roads.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that approval be given for Leicester City Council to act as treasurer for the Leicestershire Police Areas Safety Camera scheme;
- (2) that a joint bid, to be part of the rollout programme for additional safety cameras for the Leicestershire Police Area, to be funded from fine income from April 2002, be submitted to the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR), and that a further report be submitted once a decision is received from DTLR about the success of the bid, and
- (3) that a provisional programme for introducing additional cameras within the City as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, be included in the bid document, and that any requests for safety cameras outside the programme would be assessed for inclusion in future programmes of work.

125. FORMER JOHN ELLIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Councillor Patel submitted a report seeking approval to undertake community consultations as required by DfEE Circular 3/99, in connection with the proposed disposal of the former John Ellis Community College site.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the extent of the area for consultation as referred to in paragraph 1.8 of the Supporting Information of the report, be approved;
- (2) that the proposed consultation arrangements as set out in the report be approved and the consultation process commence as soon as possible; and
- (3) that a further report on the outcome of the public consultation be submitted to a future meeting.

126. REPLACEMENT OF LIBRARIES COMPUTERISED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Councillor Roberts submitted a report seeking approval to the tender process for a new computerised Library Management System following Cabinet's approval in principle in the report to Cabinet in January on 'Achieving Inclusion'.

The Director of Arts of Leisure confirmed that full training of staff using the system would take place.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that expenditure of £385, 000 for the replacement Library Management System, to be funded from a variety of sources as outlined in the Financial Implications paragraph of the report, be approved;
- (2) that authority be delegated to the Director of Arts and Leisure, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Education and Lifelong Learning, to procure the system; and
- (3) that authority be delegated to the Head of Legal Services to enter into and sign all necessary agreements arising from the purchase and maintenance of the replacement Computerised Library Management System.

127. ESTABLISHING THE CONNEXIONS SERVICE FOR LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE

Councillor Roberts submitted a report which, provided a brief summary of the progress made towards establishing a partnership to deliver the 'Connexions' support service for young people aged 13-19 in Leicester and Leicestershire. The report also set out the steps that needed to be taken to establish the new legal entity and the continuing role of Leicester City Council's Chief Executive, acting in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member.

The Cabinet Lead for Education and Lifelong Learning circulated a new proposal for recommendation (b) of the report.

Councillor Osman raised a concern regarding the transfer of staff from the Careers Service to the Connexions Service. In reply the meeting was told that TUPE regulations would apply to any staff transfer, but this was the responsibility of the Careers Service not the City Council.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the arrangements proposed for the establishment of the new legal entity for the Connexions service in Leicester and Leicestershire, be noted;
- (2) that the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Education and Lifelong Learning, to carry out the Council's role in the appointment of the independent Chair of the partnership and the Chief Executive of the proposed new company; and
- (3) that further reports be requested on the establishment of the Connexions service and its implications for relevant services of the Council.

128. 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.

PROJECT DIRECTOR / PROJECT MANAGER
ARRANGEMENTS – BRAUNSTONE LEISURE CENTRE

Paragraph 8

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

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).

GLASS AND GLAZING COMPLIANCE AT NEW COLLEGE:
WAIVER OF STANDING ORDERS

129. PROJECT DIRECTOR / PROJECT MANAGER ARRANGEMENTS BRAUNSTONE LEISURE CENTRE

Councillor Holden submitted a report recommending the appointment of consultants to provide project direction and management for the delivery of the Braunstone Leisure Centre and the Cultural Quarter. The report dealt

specifically with the costs associated with the Leisure Centre.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that approval be given for the appointment of MACE Limited and Focus Consultants (UK) to deliver Project Direction and fundraising strategy services, and the appointment of MACE Limited to deliver Project Management services for the Braunstone Leisure Centre;
- (2) that authority be delegated to the Director of Arts and Leisure, in consultation with the Cabinet Working Group on the Leisure Centre to secure and finalise project director/ project manager arrangements; and
- (3) that the Head of Legal Services be authorised to enter into the contracts for the services.

130. GLASS AND GLAZING COMPLIANCE AT NEW COLLEGE: WAIVER OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillor Roberts submitted a report outlining urgent action taken by the Director of Education to secure immediate safety improvements..

RESOLVED:

that the action of the Director of Education be noted.

131. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 5.40pm.