



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CABINET

Held: WEDNESDAY 05 JUNE 2002 at 5.00pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Willmott - Chair
Councillor Patel - Vice-Chair

Councillor Bhatti
Councillor Draycott
Councillor Getliffe
Councillor Holden

Councillor Kavia
Councillor Osman
Councillor Roberts
Councillor Westley

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19. 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.

No declarations were made.

20. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2002, having been circulated to Members, be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

21. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carers' Week

Councillor Willmott reported that week commencing 10 June 2002 was National Carers' Week, designed to promote the major contribution made by the 6 million unpaid carers in the United Kingdom. He noted that as part of the campaign, Carers were being encouraged to write to the Leader of their local Council explaining their contribution and needs. He extended an invitation to Carers to write to him and asked Councillor Getliffe, Cabinet lead member for Social Services and Personal Health, to bring a report to a future meeting of Cabinet, summarising the content of the letters and outlining what the Council

is doing to support Carers.

22. ADULT LEARNING PLAN 2002/2003

Councillor Roberts submitted a report which outlined the statutory requirement for the Local Education Authority to submit an annual Adult Learning Plan to the Learning and Skills Council, in order to secure funding for non-accredited Adult Learning. The Plan proposed a target of 21,000 learners of which 25% were to be new learners.

In response to Members' questions, it was noted that the target for learners with disabilities or learning difficulties was 8.5% against a proportion of the city population of 5% and that support was given to the voluntary sector through community project officers and through grant aid to the Workers Education Association who also advertised their programme in the City Council list of adult education courses.

RESOLVED:

that the contents of the Plan be confirmed and that Council be recommended to approve the Plan.

23. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2002/05: CONSERVATION & HERITAGE INITIATIVES AND RIVERSIDE BUDGETS

Councillor Holden submitted a report outlining proposals for the release of funds from the Capital programme for two projects, Conservation and Heritage Initiatives and Riverside, amounting to £165,000 and £150,000 respectively, both over three years. He stated that the projects illustrated the Council's commitment to the Cultural Quarter, to the restoration of historic buildings and to the regeneration of the riverside.

It was noted that the report had been considered by the Finance, Resources and Equal Opportunities Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 8 May 2002. The Committee had been supportive of the proposals but expressed concern about anti-social activity which was felt to be occurring and increasing, particularly in the riverside area and which it was felt could undermine what the investment was designed to achieve. It was noted that Officers would be closely monitoring this issue and that a report would be submitted to Cabinet if the problem persisted.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the schemes set out in the report be approved;
- (2) That funding be confirmed from the Capital Programme Conservation and Heritage Initiatives and Riverside budgets; and
- (3) That the Corporate Director of Environment, Regeneration and Development be requested to closely monitor the impact of anti-social behaviour and to refer the matter to

Cabinet if the situation persists or deteriorates.

24. PROTECTING FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS - LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL'S SERVICE PLAN FOR FOOD ENFORCEMENT 2002/03

Councillor Holden submitted a report which gave details of the proposed Service Plan for Food Enforcement for 2002/03. The Plan was the second annual plan for food related enforcement and showed both reactive and proactive work planned for the year, together with the allocation of resources.

RESOLVED:

that the Service Plan for Food Enforcement for 2002/2003 be confirmed and that Council be recommended to approve the Plan.

25. ENVIRONMENT ACT 1995 - LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Councillor Holden submitted a report which updated Members on progress with Air Quality management work and gave details of extended roadside emissions testing powers within Air Quality Management Areas. He stated that it was intended to follow a 'motorist friendly' approach to improve air quality and powers to fine would normally only be exercised when dealing with persistent offenders.

In response to Members' questions, it was noted that the scope of the scheme would be determined by the amount of Government funding made available with fines giving only a small part of the total funding.

It was stated that buses were included within the powers whilst heavy goods vehicles were covered by HM Inspectorate who would deal with any complaints. In reality however, agreement to a protocol would be sought with bus companies but individual complaints could still be submitted to Council officers. Once the scheme was introduced, publicity would be made available giving details of the scheme, who complaints could be made to and ways in which pollution could be reduced including vehicle maintenance and conversion to LPG fuel. Officers reassured Members that the emphasis would be on education of motorists and self-regulation.

A further report would be submitted to Cabinet when the outcome of the bid for funding was known. It was also proposed to adopt an integrated approach with other environmental issues.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that work be directed towards completing Stage 4 Review and Assessment of air quality within 2002, and that a letter to that effect be sent to the Department for Food, Rural Affairs and Agriculture.
- (2) That a bid be submitted to the Department for Transport, Local Government, Transport and the Regions for funding,

with a view to implementing roadside vehicle emissions testing powers within the City on a motorist friendly basis, as detailed in the report.

26. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS - BELGRAVE CORRIDOR PROJECT

The Chair agreed to the admission to the agenda of an Item of Urgent Business, 'Belgrave Corridor Project', which had been referred back from the Council meeting on 30 May. The reasons for urgency were the need to respond to the Council resolution, as detailed in the report and to remove the uncertainty over this project.

27. BELGRAVE CORRIDOR PROJECT

Councillor Bhatti submitted a report which arose from the resolution of Council on 30 May 2002, to refer the above item back to Cabinet for further consideration in the light of an objection received to the Cabinet decision on 20 May 2002 (Minute 6 refers) and an Amendment tabled at Council.

The report detailed the contents of the Objection and the proposed Amendment and outlined Officer's advice in relation to each of these. A map was also circulated to Members detailing the proposals for the operation of bus lanes and on street, off-peak parking on Belgrave Road.

Further to the report, the Leader referred to a letter he had received from the Member of Parliament for Leicester West and asked for clarification on the implications for the scheme if objections were received to the Traffic Regulation Orders; whether the parking needs of any future regeneration initiatives would be taken into account; and emphasising the need for a baseline against which to monitor the effects of the scheme.

It was noted that the objections received so far to the on street parking proposals were from the business community in Belgrave Road. The publication of the Traffic Regulation Orders however would give the opportunity to a wider section of the public to give their views on the proposals. It was confirmed that the regeneration of the wider area would be considered and the needs anticipated as far as possible. With regard to a baseline, this had already been agreed, as part of the bid submission process to central government; however the criteria could be widened following discussions with the Cabinet Lead Member and the Scrutiny Committee triumvirate.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the previous decision of Cabinet on 20 May 2002 (Minute 6 refers), be confirmed:
- (2) that the criteria to be used for the review of bus lanes be discussed in detail and agreed by the Director of Environment, Regeneration and Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member and the Scrutiny Triumvirate, prior to their introduction, based

primarily on bus journey times, taking into account the following additional factors; car journey times; number of people using bus services and vehicle flow rates; and

- (3) that the operation of the bus lanes be reviewed in 6 months.

28. 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

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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.

3Ts INNOVATION CENTRE, BONNERS LANE

29. 3 Ts INNOVATION CENTRE

Councillor Patel submitted a report seeking approval to a proposed 10 year lease of the 3Ts Innovation Centre, Bonners Lane/Oxford Street to De Montfort University under revised terms.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that a 'contracted out' lease be granted to De Montfort University on the terms detailed in the report.
- (2) that the Corporate Director of Resources, Access and Diversity be authorised to finalise terms with the lessee.

30. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 5.53 pm.