



Leicester
City Council

MEETING OF THE CABINET

DATE: MONDAY, 19 JANUARY 2004

TIME: 5:00 pm

**PLACE: COMMITTEE ROOMS 2 & 3, 'B' BLOCK, NEW WALK
CENTRE, KING STREET, LEICESTER**

Members of the Committee

Councillor Roger Blackmore (Chair)
Councillor Scuplak (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Coles, Coley, Hunt, Johnson, Metcalfe, Mugglestone and
Suleman

Members of the Cabinet are invited to attend the above meeting to
consider the items of business listed overleaf.

for Town Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

**YOU ARE VERY WELCOME TO ATTEND TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS.
HOWEVER, PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE MEETING.**

*Officer contact :Frances Wake / Matthew Reeves
Committee Services, Town Clerk's Department
Leicester City Council
New Walk Centre, Welford Place, Leicester LE1 6ZG
(Tel: 0116 252 6028 / 6022 Fax: 0116 247 1181)*

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND MEETINGS

You have the right to attend Cabinet to hear decisions being made. You can also attend Scrutiny Committees, as well as meetings of the full Council. You can ask questions and make representations to Scrutiny Committees and Council. You also have the right to see copies of agendas and minutes. Dates of meetings are available at the Customer Service Centre. There are, however, certain occasions when the Council's meetings may need to discuss issues in private session. The reasons for dealing with matters in private session are set down in law.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

The Committee Rooms at New Walk Centre are all accessible to wheelchair users. If wheelchair access is required for Council meetings, which are held at the Town Hall, please contact Charles Poole on 252 7015 or call in at the Customer Service Centre.

BRAILLE/AUDIO TAPE

If there are any particular reports that you would like translating into Braille or providing on audio tape, the Committee Administrator can provide this for you (production times will depend upon equipment/facility availability).

General Enquiries - if you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact Frances Wake/Matthew Reeves, Committee Services on (0116) 252 6028/22 or call in at the Customer Service Centre.

Press Enquiries - please phone the Communications Unit on 252 6081

PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are 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 applies to them.

2. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2003, have been circulated to Members and the Cabinet is asked to approve them as a correct record.

4. MATTERS REFERRED FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

5. CORPORATE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2004/05 Appendix A

Councillor Coley submits a report recommending a corporate capital programme for 2004/05. The Cabinet is asked to recommend the Capital programme to Council and note that as part of approving the 2004/05 General Fund Budget and Housing Revenue Account, it will be asked to approve 'Prudential Indicators'.

6. REVENUE BUDGET CONSULTATION 2004/5 Appendix B

Councillor Coley submits a report notifying the Cabinet of the findings of the recent budget consultation exercise. The Cabinet is asked to note the findings of the consultation exercise and to consider, in due course, how it wishes to use the consultation to shape the revenue strategy it submits to Council.

7. HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2003/04 AND 2004/07 Appendix C

Councillor Metcalfe submits a report which advises the Cabinet on the position at Period 7 of this year's capital programme, revises the forecast for the 2003/04 out-turn and proposes a three year housing capital programme for 2004/2007. The Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council the revised capital programme for 2003/04, approve the resources to support the Housing Capital programme for the forthcoming 3 years, approve the Housing Capital programme for 2004/7, note that the 2004/05 capital programme will be reviewed during the year and particularly following the stock options appraisal and to authorise the corporate director of Housing to approve bids under the Capital Receipts Initiative.

The relevant minutes extract of the Housing Scrutiny Committee held on 15 January 2004 will be circulated as soon as they are available.

8. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - BUDGET 2004/05 Appendix D

Councillor Metcalfe submits a report summarising the financial position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2003/04 and 2004/05. The Cabinet is asked to make a number of recommendations to Council with regard to the Housing Revenue Account, including setting the level of rents for 2004/05 on the basis of the Government's 'formula rents'.

The relevant minutes extract of the Housing Scrutiny Committee held on 15 January 2004 will be circulated as soon as they are available.

9. INCREASING THE IMPACT OF THE EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY Appendix E

Councillor Metcalfe submits a report informing the Cabinet of the number of empty homes in Leicester, current arrangements for bringing homes back in to use and proposals for extra resources to accelerate the process. The Cabinet is asked to approve that two extra staff are employed to aim to bring back into use all properties that have been vacant for more than 18 months and that the Regional Housing Board be reminded of the Council's concerns that their lack of support for 'rehab' (refurbishment of existing dwellings) undermines the Council's Empty Homes Strategy.

10. PROPOSED BIOMASS PLANT AT ST MARKS AND EXTENSION OF THE COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (CHP) LINKS Appendix F

Councillor Hunt submits a report dealing with a proposal to build a new biomass plant at St Marks and to extend Combined Heat and Power links from St Marks to St Matthews. The Cabinet is asked to approve the proposal to provide a new biomass plant at St Marks and an extension of CHP links to St Matthews, subject to the capital costs being met from the Rural Energy Trust and from the East Midlands Development Agency.

11. BRAUNSTONE YOUTH HOUSE Appendix G

Councillor Johnson submits a report outlining progress on the refurbishment of Braunstone Adult Centre to a purpose built Youth House. The Cabinet is asked to note the report and give approval to proceed, approve any financial implications arising from the report, approve the proposed procurement route, authorise the Corporate Director of Education and Lifelong Learning to seek and accept tenders, enter into contract with the successful contractor and negotiate any reduction in tender costs received, should they be above the available budget.

12. COLLECTION FUND SURPLUSES **Appendix H**

Councillor Coley submits a report identifying the estimated financial position of the Collection Fund Account as at 31 March 2004. This is a statutory duty as the surplus or deficit must be taken in to account when setting the Council Tax. The Cabinet is recommend to approve the estimated surplus of £545,000 and approve the estimated shares payable to the Police Authority and the City Council as detailed in the report.

13. COUNCIL TAX - TAXBASE **Appendix I**

Councillor Coley submits a report which details the statutory requirement of setting a 'taxbase'. The 'taxbase' is the number of properties in the City on which Council Tax is charged but expressed as if all properties were in Band D. The Cabinet is asked to endorse the report and propose a taxbase to Council.

14. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2003/2004 - PERIOD 7 **Appendix J**

Councillor Coley submits a report showing a summary position comparing spending with the budget for all General Fund Services. The Cabinet is asked to note the expenditure to date and the budgetary issues that have emerged so far this, note the proposals put forward to ensure that spending is contained within the Departments budgets and to approve the virements specified in section 5 of the supporting information of the report.

15. 2003/2004 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING - PERIOD 7 **Appendix K**

Councillor Coley submits a report updating the Cabinet on the progress of the Capital Programme for 2003/04 up to the end of October (period 7). The Cabinet is asked to approve a revised level of programmed expenditure, note the level of expenditure to the end of October 2003, note the position relating to capital receipts, note additions to the capital programme and approve the detailed list of schemes to be carried out at the Riverside as detailed at paragraph 4.4 of the report.

16. REVISED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2002/03 **Appendix L**

Councillor Coley submits a report which meets the requirement of the Accounts and Audit regulations 2003 for the authority to report on changes made to the draft accounts following the audit. The Cabinet is asked to note the revised Statement of Accounts for 2002/03.

17. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS