



Leicester
City Council

CABINET

13TH JUNE 2005

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

Report of the Town Clerk & Corporate Director

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To explain how charitable donations could be implemented, as requested at the last Cabinet meeting – paragraph 2.1(4) below.

2. Report

- 2.1 On 16 May 2005, the Cabinet resolved:

- (1) That support for the Make Poverty History campaign be expressed;
- (2) That the Council's facilitation of the work of the campaign in Leicester be supported, as far as is practicable, on the basis that the campaign is non political;
- (3) That the Overseas Links Working Party be asked to consider whether the Council should encourage Strasbourg and Krefeld to write to their national governments urging them to place international development higher up the agenda;
- (4) That all Councillors and Chief Officers be asked to donate a day's pay to the campaign, and a report on how donations could be implemented come to the next meeting of Cabinet, and;
- (5) That the Leader write to all political groups on the Council to gain cross party support for the campaign.

- 2.2 The matter was considered on 26 May 2005 by the full Council, which resolved:

"That the decisions of the Cabinet at their meeting on 16 May 2005 be endorsed, with the exception of Cabinet recommendation 4, which Cabinet recommended to change to:

'(4) that all Councillors and Chief Officers be asked to donate a day's pay to the campaign, and a report on how donations could be encouraged come to the next meeting of Cabinet.'"

2.3 Members and staff can opt to make charitable donations through payroll in two ways:

- (1) Pennies From Heaven. The odd pennies from each month's salary or allowance are donated to the Lord Mayor's Appeal. The Appeal also obtains an extra 28 pence in the pound tax as "gift aid". This opportunity is promoted each year. Contributions are set up through HR.
- (2) GAYE (Give As You Earn). Any charity can be nominated to receive donations through regular payroll deductions. Again, 28 pence in the pound tax is added for the charity. A form to set these up is available on the Council's HR Intranet site.

2.4 Whilst it often facilitates charitable activities by staff and charities, the Council usually endorses and recommends only the Lord Mayor's Appeal. This avoids potential inconsistency over which charities are endorsed, and also avoids competition with the Lord Mayor's Appeal. Of course, an exception can be made for any proper reason and donations could be encouraged in this case. Whilst particular opportunities to donate can be drawn to people's attention, individuals often prefer confidentiality over their donations and whether or not they have taken up a particular option.

2.5 In fact "*Make Poverty History*" does not appear to be a charity in its own right. It is a coalition of over 100 organisations some of whom are charities. Literature distributed to Councillors and Chief Officers at the Council meeting does not seek donations, but rather invites participation in various campaigning activities. Donations could of course be made to participating charities with a view to assisting their support for the campaign's objectives.

3. Legal & Financial Implications

3.1 The Authority can support the Make Poverty History campaign in the way set out above if there is a clear understanding that the campaign is non-political and if there is an identified benefit for residents in the City. (Author: Peter Nicholls)

3.2 There are no financial implications for the Council (Author: Mark Noble)

4. Recommendation

4.1 The Cabinet is asked to decide whether to accept the Council's recommendation and what further action should be taken in relation to resolution (4) above.

5. REPORT AUTHOR

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DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	No
Reason	
Appeared in Forward Plan	No
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)

