



Leicester
City Council

At a meeting of the LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL held at the Town Hall at FIVE O'CLOCK in the afternoon on Thursday, 27 MARCH 2003 duly convened for the business hereunder mentioned.

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BUSINESS

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1. LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. NOMINATIONS FOR CIVIC OFFICES 2003/04

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5. PETITIONS

- Presented by Councillors
- Presented by Members of the Public

6. QUESTIONS

- From Members of the Public
- From Councillors

7. REPORTS OF CABINET

Supporting People – Addition to Cabinet Portfolio
Treasury Strategy 2003/04 (Borrowing Limits)
Private Housing Renewal Strategy – Reforms
Hamilton District Centre – Provision of a Community Hall and Library
Outline of Achievements of the Senior Citizens Forum and Forum for Older People 1994-2003
Interim Corporate Plan
Taking Forward Community Cohesion in Leicester

8. REPORTS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (Achievement Reports)

Education and Lifelong Learning
Strategic Planning and Regeneration
Highways and Transportation

Finance, Resources and Equal Opportunities

9. **COMMITTEES** - To vary the composition of any Committee of Council.

10. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

(i) Moved by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Kavia:-

“This Council congratulates all those who worked to help and protect those living and working in the Belgrave area during the recent period of severe disruption to gas and water supplies.

It also acknowledges the remarks made about the City Council in the House of Commons on 4 February by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Nigel Griffiths, M.P., who described the authority as being ‘a model of how a Council should react to such an incident’.

Finally, this Council expresses its support for the action of Leicester’s three M.P.s in seeking to secure proper compensation for Belgrave residents and businesses.”

(ii) Moved by Councillor Farmer, seconded by Councillor Blackmore:-

“Council notes:-

1. In 2001 to 2002, 1,441 abandoned vehicles were removed from within the City and in 2002 to 2003 this is projected to have increased to 2,100 vehicles.
2. The effect that abandoned vehicles have upon the quality of life and environment in Leicester.

Council further notes:-

1. That the U.K Government has recently implemented the EU ‘End of Life’s Vehicle Directive.
2. That car manufacturers will not be required to meet the costs of recycling until 2007 and that, in the meantime, this burden falls on car owners.
3. That a recent report by the Institute of European Policy (IEEP) predicts that the number of abandoned vehicles is likely to double as vehicle owners seek to avoid the cost of recycling.
4. That the Government allocated local authorities the sum of £24 million a year over the next three years to address this issue, while the Local Government Association predict the four year cost at a minimum of £50 to £85 million per year.

Council therefore instructs:

1. The Town Clerk to write to the relevant Government Department:-

- (a) expressing concern of the Council as set out in this Motion;
- (b) requesting that the Government reviews the date that car manufacturers are required to meet the cost of recycling with a view to seeking an earlier implementation date;
- (c) requesting the Government provides the additional financial resources required to deal with the predicted increase in the number of abandoned vehicles.”

(iii) Moved by Councillor Mugglestone, seconded by Councillor Metcalfe:-

“That, having regard to the City of Leicester’s proud association with ships of the Royal Navy – HMS Renown and the recently decommissioned submarine Renown, which means that Leicester is now one the few large cities in the United Kingdom which does not have a civic affiliation with a vessel of the Royal Navy, that the city of Leicester take up, with both pride and pleasure, the Royal Navy’s offer of a future affiliation with the ordered, but yet to be built, Submarine HMS Ambush.”

11. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

PRESENT:

MARGARET JULIE BODELL-STAGG, LORD MAYOR
CHAIRMAN

Abbey Ward

MANSUKHLAL CHOHAN
MANJULA SOOD

Aylestone Ward

BARBARA CHAMBERS
JEAN MARY MIDDLETON

Beaumont Leys Ward

GORDON HARRY GETLIFFE
PAUL THOMAS WESTLEY

Belgrave Ward

SAKARLAL GAJJAR
JOHN WILLIAM THOMAS

Castle Ward

PHILLIP RONALD SWIFT

Charnwood Ward

PIARA SINGH CLAIR
MERLYN VERONA VAZ

Coleman Ward

MARY ELAINE DRAYCOTT
WILLIAM HENRY SHELTON

Crown Hills Ward

MOHAMMED NASIM
SIR PETER ALFRED SOULSBY

New Parks Ward

BRIAN LESLIE ROBERTS
ROSS WILLMOTT

North Braunstone Ward

ANDREW KENNETH VINCENT

Rowley Fields Ward

CHRISTOPHER EVERITT GARNER

Rushey Mead Ward

CULDIPP SINGH BHATTI
WINSTON STEPHEN NURSE

Saffron Ward

JULIE HONIBALL
JULIE SIMONS

St. Augustines Ward

ANNE BUNCE
GEOFFREY FRANCIS WALKER

Spinney Hill Ward

MUSTAFA KAMAL
MALIK MOHAMMED SALIM

Stoneygate Ward

KAREY HUNTER
NED NEWITT

East Knighton Ward

JOAN GARRITY

Evington Ward

MICHAEL HOWARD JOHNSON
ANTHONY O'BRIEN

Eyres Monsell Ward

HENRY DUNPHY
MARK EDWARD JOSEPH FARMER

Humberstone Ward

JOHN VINCENT MUGGLESTONE
ROMAN PETER SCUPLAK

Latimer Ward

RAMNIK KAVIA

Mowmacre Ward

MARGUERITE ANNE HENRY
JOHN ROBERT TAYLOR

Thurncourt Ward

JOHN GRANT ALLEN
BRENDA ROSE MAW

Westcotes Ward

NIGEL HOLDEN

Western Park Ward

ROGER BRIAN BLACKMORE
PETER COLEY

West Humberstone Ward

MERRICK ROLAND PLATTS
STEPHEN MARTIN THOMPSON

West Knighton Ward

BARRY COLES
GARY GLENDON HUNT

Wycliffe Ward

ABDUL RAZAK OSMAN
FAKI FAROOK FAKI MOHAMMED
SUBEDAR

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Mr. Will Hampton, from the Salvation Army, opened the meeting in prayer.
2. The Lord Mayor presented personal gifts to Councillors Swift, Vaz, Pritchard, Dunphy, Patel, Garner, Honiball, Bunce and Walker on their retirement from the Council.
3. The Lord Mayor presented an Illuminated Address to Councillor John Allen in recognition of his year as Lord Mayor.
4. The Lord Mayor made a presentation to Don Lack in recognition of him being awarded the U.K. Energy Manager of the Year Award 2002 by the Institute of Energy.
5. Dr and Mrs. Frank May presented to the Lord Mayor, for inclusion in the City's collection of civic silver, two silver goblets, which had been produced to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee, and which Dr. and Mrs. May were presenting in honour of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Lord Mayor invited Members to declare any interests they might have in the business on the agenda and/or indicate if Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

No such declarations were made.

NOMINATIONS FOR CIVIC OFFICES 2003/04

Councillor Blackmore informed Council that, at the Annual Meeting of the Council, to be held on 22 May 2003, the Liberal Democrat Group proposed to nominate Councillor Gary Hunt for election to the office of Deputy Lord Mayor for the year 2003/04.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor, and carried:-

121. "That the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 30 January 2003 and 5 March 2003, having been printed and copies sent to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and that they be approved as correct records."

PETITIONS

PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Coles presented a petition with 109 signatures in the following terms:-

I/We call on the City Council to take measures to reduce the speed of traffic outside the primary school on Knighton Fields Road West, to improve road safety for all road users, and to review traffic speeds along the Knighton Fields Road West and East generally.

Councillor Thompson presented a petition with 17 signatures in the following terms:-

Redevelopment of Wycombe Road School. The residents of Hallaton Road and Turner Road do not want a road coming from the school into Hallaton Road because of the traffic and noise, parking and devaluation of our property.

Councillor Newitt presented a petition with 12 signatures in the following terms:-

Once again a near fatal accident took place at this notorious accident black spot and still the Council is not taking any action to prevent such accidents. Over the years a number of very serious accidents have taken place at this crossroads as drivers fail to slow down. It is a residential area and there are children playing in the vicinity. A number of times one of the cars has ended up in our garden, which is a corner property. This latest accident took place on Wednesday, 13 November 2002 and one of cars ended up in our lounge only to be stopped by our dining room table. It was a miracle that the French window gave way otherwise the driver would have been killed. Thankfully the accident took place at about 6 in the morning, any later and we would be sitting at the dining table having our breakfast.

You have only to check with the police as to the number of accidents that have taken place at this junction over the years. It is, however, the failure of the Council to take any preventive measures at all that has surprised us. Is the Council waiting for a fatality to take place before it will do anything? As residents we are both fed up with drivers driving at great speed and the number of accidents that have taken place as it undermines our and our children's safety. We implore upon the Council to take measures immediately to prevent further accidents taking place at this junction before it is too late. Please advise by return what measures Council is proposing to take.

This letter has also been signed by the local concerned residents.

Councillor Gajjar presented petition with 45 signatures in the following terms:-

Petition for back garden wall for Acorn Street.

Councillor Henry presented a petition with 18 signatures in the following terms:-

We, the undersigned, respectfully ask that the City Council take action to eradicate the problems of speeding traffic on Cornwall Road.

Councillor Henry presented a petition with 41 signatures in the following terms:-

We, the undersigned, call upon Leicester City Council (Education Department) to provide transport from Mowmacre Hill to Stonehill High School, Birstall, and return, this is to ensure the safety of our children.

Councillor Henry presented a petition with 41 signatures in the following terms:-

We, the undersigned, call upon the City Council to organise a road safety scheme on Somerset Avenue to stop the speeding traffic coming down our road.

Councillor Henry presented a petition with 23 signatures in the following terms:-

We, the undersigned, call upon the City Council to implement a road safety scheme on Wiltshire Road to stop its continued use as a rat run through the Stadium Estate.

Councillor Kavia presented a petition no. 9 with 75 signatures in the following terms:-

Petition against the erection of a Pelican Crossing on Doncaster Road/Catherine Street.

Councillor Thompson presented a petition with 183 signatures in the following terms:-

We, the undersigned, are opposed to the withdrawal of the evening and Sunday service of the above route. This would limit the access during the week to the Leicester General Hospital by would be passengers from the north east of the route visiting family and friends during evening visiting hours. The access to the hospital on Sundays via this route will be non-existent and is totally unacceptable. This would also limit social visits to friends, family and entertainment venues (i.e. clubs, pubs, etc.)

Councillor Draycott presented a petition with 86 signatures in the following

terms:-

This is a petition for a pedestrian crossing on Coleman Road, where the hospital is situated.

Councillor Blackmore presented a petition with 260 signatures in the following terms:-

We, the residents of Braunstone, ask the Markets Forum to reconsider its decision to allow a market in Braunstone for the following reasons:-

This will help give easy access to fresh fruit and vegetables to all residents but especially elderly and disabled residents, in line with government policy of its 'five a day' campaign.

This will help generate the community allowing local residents to go into business.

This could be a shining example of multi-agency working.

Councillor Draycott presented a petition with 25 signatures in the following terms:-

We need your support! Help us by helping the community. Dear Sir/Madam, As there is a school in Coleman Road (next to the shop), we are asking the local community Council if there could be English classes for older people like Asian and other people who are having trouble speaking English. This would be an excellent idea so that most Asian and other people around Leicestershire could learn and to be able to speak English. We would be very grateful if you could sign your name and address below so you could support this. Thank you.

Councillor Roberts presented a petition with 515 signatures in the following terms:-

Following yet another road traffic accident outside Forest Lodge Primary School, on the morning of 13 March 2003, we, the undersigned, call upon Leicester City Council to make good their promise to local people and ward councillors to erect a pedestrian crossing on Charnor road, opposite Forest Lodge Primary School.

We urge the City Council to carry out the necessary work immediately, in order to ensure the safety of our children and local residents.

Councillor Farmer presented a petition with 15 signatures in the following terms:-

We, the undersigned, are concerned about the number of vehicles that go through red lights on the Glenhills Way pedestrian crossing. This crossing is used by parents and children to go to school. It is only a matter of time

before someone is injured or killed by these people who are breaking the law. We therefore demand that Leicester City Council install red light cameras to catch the people who are going through the red lights and to deter other people from doing so.

Councillor Kavia presented a petition with 164 signatures in the following terms:-

The residents surrounding Cossington Recreation Park – we are sick of the pigeon mess and the overgrown trees.

Moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor, and carried:-

122. “That all the aforementioned petitions presented by Members be referred to the Town Clerk for consideration and action as appropriate.”

PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Patrick McHugh presented a petition with 14 signatures in the following terms:-

Residents of Mossgate ask the City Council to urgently survey and replace rotten wooden windows.

Moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor, and carried:-

123. “That the petition be referred to the Town Clerk for consideration and appropriate action.”

Mrs. Julie Walker presented a petition with 167 signatures in the following terms:-

We, the undersigned, petition Leicester City Council to reverse their decision to cut £72,000.00 for Library Services in Education. The withdrawal of this money affects every Leicester City school library and therefore every young person of school age.

Moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor, and carried

124. “That the petition be referred to the Town Clerk for consideration and appropriate action.”

QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. J.S. Blackmore asked would the Cabinet Member for Housing please tell him how many new windows, doors, roofs, kitchens, bathrooms and central heating systems had been installed in Council housing since May 1999 and how many tenants had benefited from these improvements.

Councillor Draycott: Thank you, Lord Mayor. It gives me great pleasure to answer this particular question as you can imagine.

Since 1999 over 9,000 properties have had new high security double glazed windows fitted. That actually amounts to over 75,000 individual windows. In addition, since the commencement of the door replacement programme last year over 3,000 high security upvc doors have been fitted.

There are plans in the coming year to fit windows to a further 2,800 properties. The original target set in 1998 was for the entire window programme to be completed by 2013. However, because of the commitment by Labour Members on this side of the Chamber, this programme is now expected to be completed some five years ahead of its original programme. I would also advise the Council that by 2010 we anticipate all external doors that can be changed will be changed to the new high security one.

Also, since 1998, over 1,000 roofs have been replaced and over 1,500 new central heating systems fitted, Lord Mayor.

In the last year we have embarked on a further major programme for the refurbishment of kitchens and bathrooms. This includes tenants being given the choice of both colour and design. The first part of the programme was to refurbish all those kitchens which were unplastered and this is now complete with over 350 being totally refurbished.

In the coming year 420 kitchens and 420 bathrooms are included in the programme. The bathroom refurbishment design will include the ability to change from a bath to a walk in shower. This will enable the bathroom to meet the lifetime needs of our tenants and I believe this approach is the first in the country, Lord Mayor.

In addition, since 1999, over 11,000 homes have received improvement work which has enhanced the quality of life of our tenants.

Labour Members have achieved since 1999 a programme that, to my mind, is very impressive and, more importantly, has made a real difference to our tenants' lives and this is just the beginning of a strategy that will, by 2010, allow all Council tenants to enjoy a safe, secure, energy efficient home with modern facilities for many years to come.

Lord Mayor, if I may, I have a copy of the new videos that are now available

for bathrooms and kitchens. These will be available to tenants to actually have a look at in advance, which will help them see the work that is going to be carried out and what is involved and I would very much like to lend these copies to Mr. Blackmore so that he will be able to see the work that is being done.

Mr. J.S. Blackmore: Would Councillor Draycott like to comment on the impact these improvements have had on Council tenants?

Councillor Draycott: I think it is fair to say, Lord Mayor, that the response to the work that is currently being carried out to our Council properties have been received very well by our tenants. They welcome the refurbishment programme, they are well aware in the 70's and 80's there was no money available and it was basically a case of reacting and have to do repairs when money became available. Because we have now got a strategy where properties are being refurbished we are being pro-active rather than reactive and that is actually appreciated by all of the tenants in Leicester. I am also getting the same response now from tenants who are beginning to be aware of the work that is going to take place to their bathrooms and their kitchens and overall I think it is a strategy that we can be very proud of, Lord Mayor.

Mr. Patrick Baines asked would the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation please tell him how many pedestrian crossings and how much traffic calming had been installed since May 1999 and what effect this had on saving lives in our city.

Councillor Bhatti: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. Since May 1999, 15 traffic calming schemes and 70 controlled pedestrian crossing facilities have been installed in Leicester The traffic calming schemes, which include four 20 m.p.h. zones, cover 127 streets and 15 miles. It is estimated that these schemes will have produced a reduction in road casualties of around 20 people a year and Mr. Baines, humps and bumps do save lives as well.

Most pedestrian crossing facilities are installed to help pedestrians cross the road, to encourage people to walk. I can tell you that the number of people killed or seriously injured on Leicester's Roads in the period 1994 to 1998 averaged 127 a year. The figure for the last year, 2002, is 71 so that is a reduction of over 50%, to which the provision of controlled crossing facilities will almost certainly have made a contribution.

Mr. Patrick Baines: I thank Councillor Bhatti for that, only Labour could do this. Could I ask what further programmes he has if he is re-elected for the next four years in this city?

Councillor Bhatti: It is planned to introduce certainly three traffic calming schemes with 20 new pedestrian crossing facilities in the next four years time. Better bus services, 400 new shelters, more information through the Startrak and Ballpark right sites, free bus travel for the people with disabilities, easier bus travel, bus tickets valid on all buses which you can use five times. Road works over the Christmas period will be banned

completely, there will be more cycle lanes and existing ones will be improved and, in the longer term, we are considering a tram system in the city. If you want more information read our manifesto.

Mr. Patrick Baines asked would the Leader comment on the level of Council Tax increases in Leicester compared with other local authorities.

Councillor Willmott: Thank you, my Lord Mayor, I am very pleased to be able to comment on the Council Tax increases in Leicester but, first, I think it is worth noting that the average Band D Council Tax in the whole of England is around £1102 and the average increase is 12.9%. I think that compares in Leicester with a Band D Tax of £1042 and an increase of only 5.3%, so not only are we on a low level of increase year on year, but also a low, a very low absolute rate, my Lord Mayor, and let us just compare that with some other authorities controlled by other parties.

Let us take Islington for instance, its increase this year in Liberal Democrat Islington was 21%, in Liverpool a Band D tax is £1181, again a Liberal Democrat controlled Council. My Lord Mayor, in Conservative controlled Wansworth the Council Tax increase was 57.3%. In Conservative controlled Stratford on Avon it was 42.4%. In Liberal Democrat controlled Eastbourne it was 38%, my Lord Mayor. I think one begins to see the emerging picture. It costs less and people get more value for money in Labour controlled authorities. My Lord Mayor, of the 354 English Councils collecting Council Tax, 310 of those 354 have a higher Band D figure than Leicester and one has the same and 42 are lower. So, my Lord Mayor, there is no question whatsoever that living in Leicester means you pay less Council Tax, you pay lower increases in Council Tax but you get better services. Thank you, my Lord Mayor.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Willmott asked would Councillor Roberts please tell him how many new teachers and teaching assistants had been employed in all of our schools, since May 1999 and how many new classrooms and other facilities had been built (including replacement of mobiles) for them to work in.

Councillor Roberts: My Lord Mayor, I thank Councillor Willmott for this question which enables me to remind the Council of the considerable investment that has been made in children's education since May 1999.

In May 1999 we employed 2504 teachers. These have been added to annually to give an overall increase of 208 teachers. Similarly, we have increased the number of teaching assistants by 90 to 120 persons annually. We now employ 869 full-time equivalents, who support the teachers in their work and help them to raise educational standards and pupil attainment.

To provide the best possible teaching environment, we have removed 50 mobile classrooms and built 142 new classrooms. In addition we have provided 4 new school libraries, 3 new sports halls and 3 new arts centres and other new facilities are in the planning stage at present. Thank you My

Lord Mayor.

Councillor Willmott: My Lord Mayor, I would like to ask Councillor Roberts that, when we are re-elected, will he guarantee to continue this expansion of provision of teaching staff and facilities in our schools in Leicester?

Councillor Roberts: I can give Councillor Willmott the assurance that, when we come back to this Chamber with a massive majority, we will enhance our education standards and raise pupil attainment.

Councillor Thomas asked would the Leader of the Council tell him when was the last time Councillors advertised or held an advice surgery in West Knighton.

Councillor Willmott: Yes, my Lord Mayor, I have been advised that West Knighton Councillors, Councillor Coles and Councillor Hunt, do not have surgeries at present. In fact, the last time that a surgery poster was produced by West Knighton Councillors was, I understand in June 1999. Thank you, my Lord Mayor.

Councillor Thomas: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. In the light of the Leader's answer, would he care to comment on the advice given in the Liberal Democrat Manifesto which states that Liberal Democrat Councillors hold advice surgeries in their area and actually turn up?

Councillor Willmott: I think, my Lord Mayor, it is one of the many claims in their Manifesto which is clearly not borne out by the facts and I think that, therefore, you see quite clearly in front of you that most of what is in the Liberal Democrat Manifesto are works of fiction, including the fact that they claim to have surgeries and guarantee to people that they will have surgeries. In fact, Councillors Hunt and Coles have not held a surgery for four years, my Lord Mayor.

Councillor Farmer asked would the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation please tell him why has the Council allowed footpaths in Eyres Monsell and across the city to deteriorate to the present, dangerous and hazardous conditions they were in.

Councillor Bhatti: Thank you, my Lord Mayor.

The City Council is aware of the poor condition of some of its footpaths and has, over the last two years, spent over £1 million on the renewal of over 60 of the worst footpaths in the city. It is intended to continue the current programme of renewing footpaths within the city so as to improve their condition and encourage walking.

There are Highway Safety Inspections of all the footpaths in the city carried out at prescribed intervals to identify any dangerous or hazardous footpaths. These will be repaired within 24 hours of the inspection. The reports from local residents of hazardous or dangerous footpaths will be dealt with in the same manner.

Councillor Farmer: My Lord Mayor, how can Councillor Bhatti justify the substantial cut in Council spending on pavements and road maintenance in the light of increased number of accidents, particularly among the elderly people and disabled people of this city who suffer trips and falls on many dangerous paths? Would the £1,750,000 spent on meeting insurance claims last year be better spent on improving footpaths and roads?

Councillor Bhatti: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. The condition of the pavements has deteriorated mostly by parking on footpaths and the pavements and the utility services undertaking repairs under the pavement and they are disturbed now and then and cause of the problem. On the other hand you are saying that this authority has lower numbers and costs of insurance claims as compared with other authorities in the East Midlands and we are doing our best what we can and inspections are conducted at prescribed times, city centre 12 inspections a year, and major routes 4 inspections per year and residential areas 2 inspections per year and that will be done this year as well as major repairs on our roads.

Councillor Farmer asked could the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning tell him whether the Rolleston Junior School, Eyres Monsell, was on course to sustain the improved results in the face of the current financial crisis, which had resulted in year groups being taught together.

Councillor Roberts: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. Councillor Farmer, in his question, suggests that Rolleston Junior School is in a financial crisis. This is not correct. The school's budget is currently in credit and Rolleston Junior School, like all schools in the city, will have a share of the additional £5 million which Labour included in the Education budget. In consequence, the budget of Rolleston next year will be increasing.

During the past four years, the more able pupils from years 5 and 6 have tended to move to the County. It is this that has had an impact on the levels of attainment. Whilst the school has had mixed age classes for four years, this is as a result of the falling rolls. There is no correlation between the attainment and mixed classes. Indeed, in recent years, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools cited Rolleston Juniors as being one of the most improved Primary Schools in the country. This was confirmed by their last OFSTED report when the Inspector confirmed that the school both provided a satisfactory level of education and was, in fact, improving.

I have every confidence that this school is on course to sustain these improved results and to build upon them in the future.

Councillor Farmer: You blame the current problem on falling rolls in the school, well, perhaps if you offered a decent education in this city there would not be a problem in this school. Therefore, can Councillor Roberts tell me if he finds it acceptable that the Labour Party's policies have resulted in schools facing a dilemma whereby they are having to get rid of longstanding and experienced teachers in order to balance the school budget?

Councillor Roberts: No, I cannot really agree with that statement. The reality is, if you looked at us as the education authority, we have only been in control of Education in this city since 1997. Prior to that time, there was a very long aspect of County Council control of these schools which actually depleted school budgets. I do not accept that the budget has caused teachers to be decreased. This decrease has been called by the falling rolls.

Councillor Farmer asked could the Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal please tell him how the Council goes about inspecting Council windows to determine the order of priority for their replacement.

Councillor Draycott: Thank you, Lord Mayor. In response to Councillor Farmer's question, the Council carries out a rolling programme of external surveys of the Council stock. This covers the condition of each external element of the house including the windows. This information is then used to put together a programme which is based on our 'worst first' policy, Lord Mayor.

Councillor Farmer: Yes, it is a shame when the bailiffs' came to the Council they did not take you away, Councillor Draycott. I would like to ask Councillor Draycott could you please tell me why the residents have a lack of confidence in the process of inspecting windows when they see windows being in a better condition than their own being replaced, for example in Benscliffe Gardens, Eyres Monsell, where the elderly residents have metal windows. They have metal windows and these are in a much worse condition than the wooden ones. Can you please tell me why there is a lack of confidence in the process?

Councillor Draycott: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Up to now I have always had the greatest of respect for Councillor Farmer. I always think you are on a losing wicket when you start personalising matters, Lord Mayor, and I object to that particular remark made. As Councillor Farmer knows, we have a strategy, it has been a good strategy which has held us in good stead, particularly with Government Inspections, it has brought in considerable millions of pounds into this Council because of the strategy. What Councillor Farmer fails to understand and, indeed, one of his predecessors failed to understand, is that we cannot do this work overnight, Lord Mayor, it is absolutely impossible and that is why we have a strategy. We have a deadline, a target to meet, 2010, and you will just have to go back to your constituents, Councillor Farmer, and tell them that the strategy Labour has in this city will mean that their houses will be brought up to a decent standard, 2010, which is the Government's target. If you cannot handle your job, Councillor Farmer, then you should resign.

Councillor Garner asked why is the City Council painting its vehicles yellow.

Councillor Willmott: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. I am told and advised that new regulations were introduced, the Safety at Street Works and Road

Works on 1 February 2002, and to comply with the associated Code of Practice, vehicles must be a conspicuous colour and they are painted yellow to help prevent accidents happening, my Lord Mayor.

Councillor Garner: Is this really an indication of the fear held by the Labour Group that they will lose control of the City Council to the Liberal Democrats after the May local elections?

Councillor Willmott: I refer Councillor Garner to my previous answer, it is designed to prevent accidents from happening.

Councillor Blackmore asked what was the cost to date for the employment of supply teachers in city schools since August 2002.

Councillor Roberts: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. The cost of supply cover across the LEA since August 2002 represents 1.5% of the Education budget. However, the largest proportion of the amount was taken up to provide cover to release teachers for professional development and training. The average cover to each individual school was approximately £3,000 per year.

Councillor Blackmore: The last time that Councillor Roberts provided the information, he provided me with a total and, indeed, I believe parents from the local area came to your surgery, Councillor Willmott, to query it, but alas you failed to turn up yourselves. If you do advertise surgeries it is advisable to turn up.

However, could I ask the question that would have been asked, is there not a case now for having for having a supply register of local people who are willing to go on supply which we handle ourselves as a Council, like on an agency basis, rather than face this question of running all over the place to try and get supply teachers which I accept, for various reasons, is a problem. If we have a regular panel of supply teachers, is this not going to create greater stability of teaching, greater stability within the classroom and, therefore, benefit our children, rather than rely far too much on a wide variety of seeking sources of supply teachers.

Councillor Roberts: I think Councillor Blackmore is absolutely right, the more stability we get in the classroom, the better and I think is an idea which is worthy of further exploration and when we return to this Council after May, the Labour Group will actually consider that aspect.

Councillor Henry asked what was going to happen for provision of the scrap store when it was closed for relocation between April 2003 and September 2003, and how would the user groups be affected.

Councillor Holden: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. In answer to Councillor Henry, my Lord Mayor, the Resource Centre at Planet Workers, Slater Street, will be permanently closed from the end of April to make room for refurbishment works for the relocation of services from the Abbey Meadows Depot. Existing user groups will be given the opportunity to transfer to better facilities at the Children's Resource Centre, Lansdowne Road in September

when the refurbishment is complete, my Lord Mayor. All user groups have been advised to stock up on materials for the summer period, and I would like to go further than that, my Lord Mayor, and I would like to give the assurance that none of the user groups will suffer as a result of this exercise, my Lord Mayor.

Councillor Henry: Thank you, my Lord Mayor, if you will just indulge me for a minute. As you know, we both like a bit of a bargain. The outfit I am actually wearing tonight comes with fabric and fastenings from the scrap store. Could Councillor Holden actually assure us that there will be no cuts in service provision at all and that the range of materials carried in the scrap store will continue? Many of my constituents do actually use that as part of the group and if they are good enough to wear in the Chamber, my Lord Mayor, they are good enough to wear anywhere.

Councillor Holden: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. Clearly Councillor Henry is either deaf or she was not listening to what I was saying at all, my Lord Mayor. I did actually give an assurance that no user groups will suffer as a result of this exercise, my Lord Mayor.

Councillor Farmer asked was the Leader of the Council concerned about his failure to provide real improvements in Council services whilst, at the same time, forcing huge Council Tax increases on the citizens of Leicester,

Councillor Willmott: I thank Councillor Farmer for his question, my Lord Mayor. I was somewhat troubled when I saw this question down so I started writing out a list of what I thought were not only the improvements I have been involved in but the improvements brought about by the entire Labour Group and as I have already explained in an answer from a member of the public about Council Tax. I started writing this list out, my Lord Mayor, and as you can see it is quite a long list of achievements. I am not going to read them all out, but I do feel I should read some of these out.

As I have already explained, my Lord Mayor, of the 354 English Councils collecting Council Tax, 310 have a higher Band D figure than the Labour controlled Leicester City Council. I have already listed many of those Liberal Democrat controlled Councils that have Council Tax increases in double figures and are penalising and punishing the people in their areas whilst also scoring, my Lord Mayor very, very low in their Comprehensive Performance Assessments, in particular Islington and in particular Liverpool. Islington scored worse than Leicester in CPA performance and yet their Council Tax increase under Liberal Democrat control is much, much higher, 21% increase this year. Leicester, under Labour control with a fair rating at CPA 5.3%, that seems like good value for money to me, my Lord Mayor.

Let me just run through this list quickly. Let me just say next, what else have we done. Councillor Roberts has already outlined some of the achievements in Education. Millions, millions into schools, hundreds of extra teachers, new buildings and nearly every single one, rebuilding programmes in nearly every single one of our 150 schools, My Lord Mayor. My Lord Mayor, there are 150 schools in our city and during the last four years nearly every single one

of them has had improvements, including Crown Hills Community College, Fulhurst Community College, Hamilton Community College, Judgemoor Community College, Moat Community College, Riverside Community College. Lord Mayor, many, many Primary Schools as well, including Eyres Monsell Primary School. You would think Councillor Farmer would know about this issue in a school in his own Ward brought about by my colleagues here on the Labour benches, and if that is not enough, My Lord Mayor, let me skip a few more things on the very long list that I have got, my Lord Mayor, some things have not been even mentioned, for instance, our allotment strategy, which I should point out to Councillor Farmer, allows us to invest money in improving allotments and free up land for development produces many millions of pounds which we can re-invest in facilities for the City Council.

I am happy to say, my Lord Mayor, that the list is very, very long and I will not continue any further, but I would point out to Councillor Farmer that the number of achievements the Labour Group have made in the last four years, not just myself, have been huge and it is our intention to carry on doing the work over the next four years and beyond when we win the elections on 1 May. Thank you, my Lord Mayor.

Councillor Farmer: Councillor Willmott banter a lot of figures around but I would just want to point out to him that Labour ran Slough, 15% increase in Council Tax, Tower Hamlets, 17% increase in Council Tax 20.3% increase in Council Tax, 20.3%. Councillor Willmott, if you are so confident about your Councillors and your own rabble as a service provider over the last four years, why are you abandoning your constituents in New Parks and doing a trick and run to Rushey Mead?

Councillor Willmott: My Lord Mayor, I am confident of my achievements but the simple answer is that, one, it frees up a seat, I am not a local person in New Parks, I do not live in New Parks, never have done, and, of course, I do live in Rushey Mead so I think it is quite sensible and I think all Councillors, wherever they can, should live in the Ward that they represent and that, my Lord Mayor, ought to also apply to Councillor Farmer, who lives nowhere near Eyres Monsell and has the audacity to stand up in the Council Chamber and criticise a Member who has more principle than he has ever known if he saw it, for representing an area where he actually lives.

It reminds me of those wonderful lines in Shakespeare, my Lord Mayor, there was this wonderful opportunity, Laurence Olivier was doing Richard III, my Lord Mayor, at the Old Vic, and he shouted out "a horse, a horse, my Kingdom for a horse" and somebody burst out laughing. He said "go saddle yonder braying ass". My Lord Mayor, if I might say to Councillor Farmer, there is a good rule in politics, my Lord Mayor, and I do not mean to sound patronising, that is, never ask the question that you do not know the question to already. Thank you, my Lord Mayor.

Councillor Shelton asked could the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health tell him about the plans for the future development of health and

social care centres in the City,

Councillor Getliffe: In the last four years there have been very few questions directed at myself as Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health and I would like to think that we are doing right and I include all Members from all sides in that.

Lord Mayor, in answer to Councillor Shelton's question, the Council has a long standing commitment to develop close working relationships with the NHS in Leicester to provide better, more accessible services. To this end, we have seconded our adult mental health staff into Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust alongside staff from Leicestershire and Rutland Social Services Departments.

Together we have developed a vision for Health and Social Care Centres for the twenty first century with Eastern Leicester Primary Care Trust and Leicester City West Primary Care Trust. The vision is to develop primary care services in Leicester, including seven Health and Social Care Centres. These centres will accommodate NHS and Social Services staff as appropriate to each neighbourhood, including the provision of GP and primary care. These primary care services will also include pharmacists, dentists, optometrists and some outpatient clinics currently at hospitals.

The first of the seven proposed Health and Social Care Centres is planned for Braunstone, funded by New Deal for Communities and due to open in Autumn 2004 and anybody who has seen the design of that building will appreciate that it is a remarkable environment, my Lord Mayor. The other six are funded through a successful bid by the two PCTs to set up a public/private partnership through the Government's Local Improvement Finance Trust, LIFT.

The first of the LIFT centres will be in Charnwood and will incorporate a new family centre and is planned to open in late 2005. The other five are in the planning stage and are proposed for Knighton, New Parks/Beaumont Leys, Belgrave, North East Leicester and Saffron/Eyres Monsell by 2006/07. We hope these centres will also offer more local customer care services for the Council as a whole.

It is planned that moving Social Care and Health to these centres will complete the move from Grey Friars, much to the relief of staff who actually work there. Our overall aim is that services should be better, more accessible and more welcoming environments for patients and better working conditions for staff.

REPORTS OF CABINET

'SUPPORTING PEOPLE' – ADDITION TO CABINET PORTFOLIO (Decision reserved to Council)

At its meeting on 10 February 2003, the Cabinet received a report outlining the introduction of the 'Supporting People' grant for which the City Council will be the administering authority.

A copy of the report is attached.

The Cabinet agreed the recommendations in the report:-

The City Council is asked to add the following to the Cabinet Portfolio for Social Care and Health:

"12. to exercise the Council's functions in relation to grants for welfare services"

Moved by Councillor Getliffe, seconded by Councillor Willmott, and carried:-

125. "That the City Council add to the Cabinet Portfolio for Social Care and Health the responsibility 'to exercise the Council's functions in relation to grants for welfare services'."

TREASURY STRATEGY 2003/04 (Decision reserved to Council)

At its meeting on 10 March 2003, the Cabinet received a report recommending a Treasury Strategy for 2003/04. The Strategy includes proposed borrowing limits which require the approval of the full Council.

A copy of the report is attached.

The Cabinet agreed the recommendations in the report.

The City Council is asked to approve the borrowing limits detailed in paragraph 5.1 of the Strategy.

Moved by Councillor Willmott, seconded by Councillor Draycott, and carried:-

126. "That the City Council approve the borrowing limits as detailed in paragraph 5.1 of the Cabinet Report on Treasury Strategy 2003/04."

PRIVATE HOUSING RENEWAL STRATEGY - REFORMS

At its meeting on 10 March 2003, the Cabinet received a report which detailed the new freedoms given to local authorities by the Government to develop local approaches to renovation grants, home repair grants, renewal areas and any other form of assistance to owners of private housing which would improve, repair or adapt their homes.

A copy of the report is attached.

The Cabinet approved the recommendations in the report.

The City Council is asked to note and endorse the decision of the Cabinet.

Moved by Councillor Draycott, seconded by Councillor Willmott, and carried:-

127. "That the City Council note and endorse the decisions of the Cabinet in relation to reforms associated with the Private Housing Renewal Strategy."

HAMILTON DISTRICT CENTRE – PROVISION OF A COMMUNITY HALL AND LIBRARY

At its meeting on 10 March 2003, the Cabinet received a report seeking approval in principle to the funding and provision of a community hall and library at the Hamilton District Centre.

A copy of the report is attached.

The Cabinet approved the recommendations in the report.

The City Council is asked to note and endorse the decision of the Cabinet.

Moved by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Holden, and carried:-

128. "That the City Council note and endorse the decisions of the Cabinet relating to the approval, in principle, to the funding and provision of a community hall and library at the Hamilton District Centre."

OUTLINE OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS FORUM AND FORUM FOR OLDER PEOPLE 1994-2003

At its meeting on 24 March 2003, the Cabinet will receive a report highlighting the achievements and successes of the Senior Citizens Forum and the Forum for Older People.

A copy of the report is attached.

The Cabinet will be asked to:-

- a) note the achievements of both the Senior Citizens Forum and the Forum for Older People from 1994 – 2003;
- b) note Member commitment across all parties to support the work of both forums, acknowledge that the majority of Members who have served on these groups will be retiring from the Council in the forthcoming election and that renewed commitment will be needed to continue to meet the aspirations of older people and to maintain the record of achievements to date;
- c) note the work scheduled for future meetings of the Forum for Older People.

The Minutes extract of the meeting of the Cabinet on 24 March 2003 is as follows:-

239. OUTLINE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS' FORUM AND FORUM FOR OLDER PEOPLE 1994-2003

Councillor Getliffe submitted a report highlighting the achievements and successes of the Senior Citizens Forum and the Forum for Older People in raising the profile of older people's needs in the City since the foundation of the Forum in 1994.

Councillor Getliffe paid tribute to Councillors Vaz, Swift, Walker and Dunphy for all their contributions to both Forums.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the achievements of both the Senior Citizens Forum and Forum for Older People 1994-2003, be noted;
- (2) to note the commitment of Councillors from all parties to support the work of both Forums and that the majority of Councillors who have served on these groups will be retiring from the Council in the forthcoming election and that renewed commitment will be needed to continue to meet the aspirations of older people and to maintain the record of achievements to date; and
- (3) that the work scheduled for future meetings of the Forum for Older People, be noted.

The City Council is asked to note and endorse the actions of the Cabinet.

Moved by Councillor Getliffe, seconded by Councillor Swift, and carried:-

129. "That the City Council endorse the actions of the Cabinet in noting both the achievements of the Senior Citizens Forum and Forum for Older People 1994 – 2003 and the work scheduled for future meetings of the Forum for Older People."

INTERIM CORPORATE PLAN

At its meeting on 24 March 2003, the Cabinet will receive a report outlining the process to date of developing the Council's corporate plan and seeking comments.

A copy of the Cabinet report is attached, to which is appended the Interim Consultation Draft of the Corporate Plan.

The Minutes extract of the meeting of the Cabinet on 24 March 2003 is as follows:-

235. INTERIM CORPORATE PLAN

Councillor Willmott submitted a report outlining the process to date of developing the Council's corporate plan and presenting a draft plan that had been drawn up with cross party agreement.

It was noted that the corporate plan would replace the current 'strategic direction' and also respond to recommendations arising from the Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

Councillor Willmott recommended the interim Corporate Plan to the Cabinet for approval and referral to Council.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the developments to date and the future timetable be noted;
- (2) that the consultation phase be noted; and
- (3) that the Interim Corporate Plan be agreed and recommended to Council for adoption.

The City Council is asked to note and endorse the decision of the Cabinet.

Moved by Councillor Willmott, seconded by Councillor Draycott, and carried:-

130. "That the City Council approve and adopt the recommendations of the Cabinet in relation to the development of the Council's Interim Corporate Plan."

"TAKING FORWARD COMMUNITY COHESION IN LEICESTER"

At its meeting on 24 March 2003, the Cabinet will receive a report introducing the report of the independent consultants IDEA, "Taking Forward Community Cohesion in Leicester".

The Cabinet will be asked to endorse the report and nominate members to lead a task force with the Leicester partnership to tackle the challenge of bringing together outer and inner communities.

A copy of the Cabinet report is attached, to which is appended the report of the Independent Consultants IDEA "Taking Forward Community Cohesion in Leicester".

The Minutes extract of the meeting of the Cabinet on 24 March 2003 is as follows:-

237. TAKING FORWARD COMMUNITY COHESION IN LEICESTER

Councillor Osman submitted a report seeking endorsement of the report of the independent consultants IDEA "Taking Forward

Community Cohesion in Leicester” and recommending members to be nominated to lead a task force with Leicester Partnership to tackle the challenge of bringing together outer and inner city communities. This would complement the work on the Community Cohesion Pathfinder Programme that the Council would be undertaking following the recent funding award.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Cabinet endorse the report of the independent consultants IDEA “Taking Forward Community Cohesion in Leicester”;
- (2) that Councillors Osman, Willmott, Draycott and Roberts be nominated to lead a task force with Leicester Partnership to tackle the challenge of bringing together outer and inner city communities by:-
 - implementing the Community Cohesion Pathfinder Action Plan;
 - generating city-wide support from Leicester Partnership and other partners for the City’s first Community Cohesion Strategy in line with national guidance;
 - identifying key current service activities that can most effectively be harnesses to bring together and accelerate outer and inner city cohesion and regeneration.

The City Council is asked to note and endorse the decision of the Cabinet

Moved by Councillor Osman, seconded by Councillor Willmott, and carried:-

131. “That the City Council note and endorse the actions of the Cabinet in relation to the report of the Independent Consultants IDEA, entitled ‘Taking Forward Community Cohesion in Leicester’.”

REPORTS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS)

The Council at its meeting on 30 May 2002, agreed the following:-

“This Council asks that, during the course of the current municipal year, the Chair of each Scrutiny Committee makes a short presentation through a report to full Council, of no more than five minutes duration, outlining the achievements of their Committee during the first two years of the new Council Cabinet and Scrutiny system.”

Attached are the report from the Chairs of the following Scrutiny Committees:-

Education and Lifelong Learning

The Committee welcomed the report detailing achievements. It was suggested that a small group of members of the Committee meet as a mechanism for developing a work plan which could then be published. It was felt that this would further improve the Scrutiny function of the Committee. In addition, Members asked that the unique nature of the Committee, in that it had co-opted Members, was stressed in the report, as was their valued input to the work of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the unique nature of the Committee, in that it has co-opted Members and their valued input to the work of the Committee be stressed in the report; and
- (2) that the report be approved as the Chair's presentation to Council on 27 March 2003.

Strategic Planning and Regeneration

Highways and Transportation

Finance, Resources and Equal Opportunities

The City Council is asked to note the reports.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Vincent, and carried:-

132. "That the City Council note the report on the achievements to date of the Education and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee."

Moved by Councillor Hunt, seconded by Councillor Mugglestone, and carried:-

133. "That the City Council note the report of the Strategic Planning and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on its work since its inception in August 2000."

Moved by Councillor Kamal, seconded by Councillor Newitt, and carried:-

134. "That the City Council note the report on the achievements to date of the Highways and Transportation Scrutiny Committee."

Moved by Councillor Blackmore, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Middleton, and carried:-

135. "That the City Council note the work of the Finance, Resources and

Equal Opportunities Scrutiny Committee since its inaugural meeting in September 2000.”

COMMITTEES

- None -

NOTICES OF MOTION

Moved by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Kavia, and carried:-

136. “This Council congratulates all those who worked to help and protect those living and working in the Belgrave area during the recent period of severe disruption to gas and water supplies.

It also acknowledges the remarks made about the City Council in the House of Commons on 4 February by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Nigel Griffiths, M.P., who described the authority as being ‘a model of how a Council should react to such an incident’.

Finally, this Council expresses its support for the action of Leicester’s three M.P.s in seeking to secure proper compensation for Belgrave residents and businesses.”

Moved by Councillor Farmer, seconded by Councillor Blackmore:-

“Council notes:-

1. In 2001 to 2002, 1,441 abandoned vehicles were removed from within the City and in 2002 to 2003 this is projected to have increased to 2,100 vehicles.
2. The effect that abandoned vehicles have upon the quality of life and environment in Leicester.

Council further notes:-

1. That the U.K Government has recently implemented the EU ‘End of Life’s Vehicle Directive.
2. That car manufacturers will not be required to meet the costs of recycling until 2007 and that, in the meantime, this burden falls on car owners.
3. That a recent report by the Institute of European Policy (IEEP) predicts that the number of abandoned vehicles is likely to double as vehicle owners seek to avoid the cost of recycling.
4. That the Government allocated local authorities the sum of £24 million

a year over the next three years to address this issue, while the Local Government Association predict the four year cost at a minimum of £50 to £85 million per year.

Council therefore instructs:

1. The Town Clerk to write to the relevant Government Department:-
 - (a) expressing concern of the Council as set out in this Motion;
 - (b) requesting that the Government reviews the date that car manufacturers are required to meet the cost of recycling with a view to seeking an earlier implementation date;
 - (c) requesting the Government provides the additional financial resources required to deal with the predicted increase in the number of abandoned vehicles.”

AN AMENDMENT

Proposed by Councillor Bhatti, seconded by Councillor Willmott:-

“Add to the end of the Motion:-

- ‘2. Council also congratulates the Cabinet Member for Arts, Leisure and the and the Environment for agreeing a change in the Council’s policy on abandoned vehicles which has reduced the length of time that vehicles remain abandoned from three weeks to 24 hours.’ “

AMENDED MOTION NOW READS:

137. “Council notes:-

1. In 2001 to 2002, 1,441 abandoned vehicles were removed from within the City and in 2002 to 2003 this is projected to have increased to 2,100 vehicles.
2. The effect that abandoned vehicles have upon the quality of life and environment in Leicester.

Council further notes:-

1. That the U.K Government has recently implemented the EU ‘End of Life’s Vehicle Directive.
2. That car manufacturers will not be required to meet the costs of recycling until 2007 and that, in the meantime, this burden falls on car owners.
3. That a recent report by the Institute of European Policy (IEEP) predicts that the number of abandoned vehicles is likely to double as

vehicle owners seek to avoid the cost of recycling.

4. That the Government allocated local authorities the sum of £24 million a year over the next three years to address this issue, while the Local Government Association predict the four year cost at a minimum of £50 to £85 million per year.

Council therefore instructs:

1. The Town Clerk to write to the relevant Government Department:-
 - (a) expressing concern of the Council as set out in this Motion;
 - (b) requesting that the Government reviews the date that car manufacturers are required to meet the cost of recycling with a view to seeking an earlier implementation date;
 - (c) requesting the Government provides the additional financial resources required to deal with the predicted increase in the number of abandoned vehicles.
2. Council also congratulates the Cabinet Member for Arts, Leisure and the and the Environment for agreeing a change in the Council's policy on abandoned vehicles which has reduced the length of time that vehicles remain abandoned from three weeks to 24 hours."

The Lord Mayor put the Amended Motion to the vote and declared it carried.

(iii) Proposed by Councillor Mugglestone, seconded by Councillor Johnson:-

"That, having regard to the City of Leicester's proud association with ships of the Royal Navy – HMS Renown and the recently decommissioned submarine Renown, which means that Leicester is now one the few large cities in the United Kingdom which does not have a civic affiliation with a vessel of the Royal Navy, that the city of Leicester take up, with both pride and pleasure, the Royal Navy's offer of a future affiliation with the ordered, but yet to be built, Submarine HMS Ambush."

AN AMENDMENT

Moved by Councillor Willmott, seconded by Councillor Draycott :-

"Delete the words 'take up, with both pride and pleasure' and replace by 'considers taking up'.

Add to the end of the Motion:-

'and in order to consider this decision more fully Council requests a further report outlining other options including those of a humanitarian

and more peaceful nature that might also be suitable for Leicester to be affiliated to.’ ”

AMENDED MOTION NOW READS:

138. “That, having regard to the city of Leicester’s proud association with ships of the Royal Navy – HMS Renown and the recently decommissioned submarine Renown, which means that Leicester is now one of the few large cities in the United Kingdom which does not have a civic affiliation with a vessel of the Royal Navy, that the city of Leicester considers taking up the Royal Navy offer of a future affiliation with the ordered, but yet to be built, submarine HMS Ambush, and in order to consider this decision more fully Council requests a further report outlining other options including those of a humanitarian and more peaceful nature that might also be suitable for Leicester to be affiliated to.”

The Lord Mayor put the Amended Motion to the vote and declared it carried.

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- None -

The Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.49 p.m.

