



Leicester
City Council

At a meeting of the LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL held at the Town Hall at FIVE O'CLOCK in the afternoon on Wednesday, 5 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. **REPORTS OF CABINET**

Revenue Budget Strategy 2003/04 to 2005/06
General Fund Budget and Council Tax 2003/04

4. **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

SIR PETER ALFRED SOULSBY

New Parks Ward

BRIAN LESLIE ROBERTS
ROSS WILLMOTT

North Braunstone Ward

JOY ELIZABETH SEARE
ANDREW KENNETH VINCENT

Rowley Fields Ward

CHRISTOPHER EVERITT GARNER
ANDREW METCALFE

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
VEEJAYKUMAR PATEL

Mowmacre Ward

MARGUERITE ANNE HENRY
JOHN ROBERT TAYLOR

Thurncourt Ward

JOHN GRANT ALLEN
BRENDA ROSE MAW

Westcotes Ward

ANDREW IAN CONNELLY
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

Captain Christine Ord of the Salvation Army opened the meeting in prayer.

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.

The following Members declared Personal Interests, as listed, with none of those Interests being also declared as prejudicial. (Guidance was given to Members that personal interests do not become prejudicial to the consideration of the generality of the General Fund Budget or the Revenue Strategy, except that Members withdraw from consideration of specific items which may be debated in which they consider themselves to have a prejudicial interest.)

Councillor	Nature of Personal Interest
Councillor Soulsby	wife works as a teacher in a City School.
Councillor Westley	brother-in-law works for City Council (City Cleansing), sister and niece are both Council House tenants and cousin is a market trader on the city markets.
Councillor Taylor	wife works as Supervisor Cook for City Catering at Buswells Lodge Primary School.
Councillor Hunter	husband employed by Social Services as a Social Worker
Councillor Mrs. Middleton	son (Christopher) works within the Traffic Section, Environment & Development Department and son (Philip) undertakes sessional work at Manor House Craft and Skills Centre.
Councillor Shelton	son works for the Housing Department.
Councillor Coley	daughter works at New College as a Curriculum Support Base Co-ordinator.
Councillor Sood	son works as a teacher in city schools.
Councillor Roberts	wife works as a Senior Play Leader on New Parks Adventure Playground; is a tenant of City Council non-furnished housing accommodation and son and daughter are both Council house tenants.
Councillor Mugglestone	wife works as an employee of Leicester Law Centre.
Councillor Coles	has a tenancy of a City Council owned shop premises within the city.
Councillor Kamal	wife rents property from the City Council
Councillor Vincent	a tenant of City Council non-furnished Housing Accommodation, has a friendship with Councillor

	Seare, who is a Council House tenant and is employed by Braunstone Community Association.
Councillor Seare	a tenant of City Council non-furnished Housing Accommodation and has a friendship with Councillor Vincent, who is both a Council House Tenant and is employed by Braunstone Community Association.
Councillor Getliffe	a tenant of City Council non-furnished Housing Accommodation and daughter is a Council House Tenant.
Councillor Metcalfe	a tenant of City Council non-furnished Housing Accommodation.
Councillor Draycott	mother is a Council house tenant.
Councillor Bodell-Stagg	employed by the Salvation Army which has various Service Level Agreements with Social Services Department.
Councillor Platts	on the Greater Humberstone SRB6, Chair and Resident Member of Management Group and as a Director of NEDI Ltd.
Councillor Osman	mother is in receipt of disability living grant – adaptations.
Councillor Thompson	a Director of NEDI Ltd and Resident Member of Greater Humberstone SRB6
Councillor Willmott	a Board Member of East Midlands Development Agency.
Councillor Newitt	wife works at LGA on secondment from City Council

REPORTS OF CABINET

Moved by Councillor Clair, seconded by Councillor Henry, and carried:-

118. “That, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 22, an extension of time be granted for the speeches by Councillors Patel, Willmott, Coley and Scuplak, and that be a single extension of 10 minutes for each of those Speakers.”

REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2003/04 TO 2005/06

At its meeting on 24 February 2003, the Cabinet considered a proposed Corporate Revenue Strategy and a proposed Departmental Revenue Strategy for each department up to 2005/06, as recommended by the relevant Cabinet Lead Member.

A copy of the report is attached which includes the comments of Scrutiny Committees.

The recommendations of Cabinet, as circulated to all Members, are appended to

the Council Report

In addition, prior to the moving of a formal resolution, Councillor Patel introduced, by way of the following Explanatory Note, circulated to all Members, entitled 'Variation to the Revenue Budget Strategy 2003/04 to 2005/06 and the Council's General Fund Budget 2003/04'.

- 1) It is proposed to utilise £230,000 of income from on-street car parking in 2003/04 to fund the recommended increase in the Environment, Regeneration and Development's bus subsidies budget in 2003/04.

Present income from street parking is buoyant and therefore it is recommended that a one off sum is utilised to fund the increase in bus subsidies in 2003/04.

- 2) It is proposed to make a further provision for the African Caribbean Forum of £30,000 per annum. This is in addition to the £10,000 funding recommended as part of the Chief Executive's budget strategy.

The total of £40,000 is therefore to be used as pump priming money necessary to help secure a European funding package. A protocol will be agreed with the Forum regarding the drawdown of Council funding.

These changes will reduce the requirement to use general fund reserves to support the 2003/04 budget by £200,000, meaning a total contribution being required from reserves in 2003/04 of £1.6m.

Neither of these variations affects the level of Council Tax.

TECHNICAL CHANGES

The two variations would require the following technical changes to the recommended Revenue Budget Strategy report.

REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2003/04 TO 2005/06

- i. Reduce the required usage of General Fund Reserves to £1.6m, reducing the estimated balance of reserves to £4.6m as at 1 April 2003.
- ii. Reduce Environment, Development and Regeneration Department's 2003/04 Planning Target by £230,000 to £35.129m.
- iii. Increase the Chief Executive's Office Planning Target by £30,000 to £2.499m 2003/04 and £2.458m in 2004/05.

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

119. "That the City Council endorse the Revenue Budget Strategy for 2003/04 and 2005/06, as approved by Cabinet and as appended to the Council Report and subject to the variation, in principle, to the Budget Strategy as circulated to all Members and attached to the Council Script,"

AN AMENDMENT

Moved by Councillor Coley, seconded by Councillor Blackmore:-

“Add to the end of the Motion ‘subject to the Amendments detailed in the Liberal Democrat proposals and Explanatory notes circulated to all Members by way of being attached to the Council Script (and which are appended to the Council Report’.”

In accordance with the provision of Council Procedure Rule 29, the names of those Members voting for and against the Amended were recorded as follows:-

FOR THE AMENDMENT

Councillor Allen	Councillor Blackmore
Councillor Bunce	Councillor Chambers
Councillor Coles	Councillor Coley
Councillor Farmer	Councillor Gajjar
Councillor Garner	Councillor Garrity
Councillor Henry	Councillor Honiball
Councillor Hunt	Councillor Johnson
Councillor Maw	Councillor Metcalfe
Councillor Middleton	Councillor Mugglestone
Councillor O’Brien	Councillor Platts
Councillor Scuplak	Councillor Seare
Councillor Taylor	Councillor Thompson
Councillor Vincent	Councillor Walker

AGAINST THE AMENDMENT

Councillor Bhatti	Councillor Bodell-Stagg
Councillor Chohan	Councillor Clair
Councillor Connelly	Councillor Draycott
Councillor Dunphy	Councillor Getliffe
Councillor Holden	Councillor Hunter
Councillor Kamal	Councillor Kavia
Councillor Newitt	Councillor Nurse
Councillor Osman	Councillor Patel
Councillor Roberts	Councillor Salim
Councillor Shelton	Councillor Sood
Councillor Soulsby	Councillor Subedar
Councillor Swift	Councillor Thomas
Councillor Vaz	Councillor Westley
Councillor Willmott	

The Lord Mayor declared the Amendment lost, 26 votes for and 27 against.

THE COUNCIL’S GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2003/04

At its meeting on 24 February 2003, the Cabinet considered a report outlining the proposed overall General Fund Revenue Budget for 2003/04. The draft

report to Council recommending the overall budget is attached.

The recommendations of the Cabinet, as circulated to the Council, are appended to the Report.

The Council is asked to approve the Council's General Fund Budget and Council Tax for 2003/04.

The two variations moved by Councillor Patel relating to the Report on the Revenue Budget Strategy 2003/04 to 2005/06 does not affect the level of Council Tax but requires the following technical changes to the Council's General Fund Budget 2003/04.

THE COUNCIL'S GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2003/04

- i. Reduce the required usage of General Fund Reserves to £1.604m
- ii. Reduce the 2003/04 Direct Base Budget for the Environment, Development and Regeneration Department to £35.129m
- iii. Increase the Chief Executive's Office 2003/04 Direct Base Budget £2.499m
- iv. In relation to sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - £512,883,500 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act
 - £171,693,500 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.

Moved by Councillor Patel, seconded by Councillor Willmott:-

119. "That the Report and recommendations of the Cabinet relating to the Council's General Fund Budget 2003/04 be approved, in principle, subject to the variation put forward by Councillor Patel to the General Fund Budget as circulated to all Members by way of being attached to the Council Script."

There being an equality of votes in favour and against this Motion, the Lord Mayor used her casting vote in favour of the Motion and declared it to be carried.

Liberal Democrat amendment to the General Fund budget 2003/4

The purpose of this amendment is to seek the Council's approval of a Liberal Democrat amendment to the budget which will offer improvements to services in 4 main areas.

- By working for efficiency savings by diverting resources from administrative bureaucracy to frontline services.
- By pressing ahead with imaginative environmental initiatives and putting extra resource into creating a cleaner, tidier city.
- By seeking to minimise the increase in Council tax charged to residents by reducing the level of increase to 4.9%

- By improving services to children, the elderly and people with disabilities.

3 Explanatory Notes

Chief Executive's Office

1. Reduction of grant to Leicester Promotions

Establishing a year on year expectation for Leicester Promotions to generate additional income and reduce overall costs.

2. Produce/distribute Leicester Link as a Mercury supplement

The Leicester Mercury will print Link as a monthly supplement to the Mercury. Although not all Leicester households may choose to purchase the Mercury on "Link days", free copies of the supplement would be available at Council facilities.

3. Scrutiny support

As last year, the proposal is to create a 3 strong team of officers giving direct support to the scrutiny function. To do this it is intended to redirect 2 Policy Officers from the Chief Executive's Office and 1 member of staff from Members' Services.

Cultural Services & Neighbourhood Renewal

4. Public Arts

We propose to delete 2.68 vacant posts in Public Arts and utilise existing strong links with the voluntary sector to maintain and promote Public Arts.

5. Sport on Parks

We are keen to promote presence on parks and therefore would like to see more park related staff physically accommodated on parks. We propose to relocate this unit from New Walk Centre to suitable accommodation on a park.

6 & 7. Park Ranger Service

We have allocated savings from the organisational review within Cultural Services to create 3 new Park Ranger posts. In addition, we propose growth in this area to provide a further 3 Park Ranger posts.

8. Markets saving

Deletion of vacant Market Officer post.

9. Recreational Transport

We propose to transfer this service to E,R & D to be incorporated within the Operational Transport function. This will result in an efficiency saving (*assuming 1 post saved*)

Education & Lifelong Learning

10. Partial reinstatement of Fosse N.C

We propose to bring back into community use, the unoccupied rooms at Fosse N.C (coffee bar and the main hall).

11. Policy & Communications Team.

Deletion of two vacant posts within this team.

12. Property & Contracts Team.

Deletion of growth proposal for two extra Development Officer posts.

13. SEN Transport.

We propose to review the policy for allocating transport to older Special Needs pupils and encourage greater use of public transport in order to promote greater independence. To do this, we have included a growth item of £10,000 to contribute to the funding of the review.

14. Accommodation

Deletion of growth proposal for the purchase of additional office accommodation.

15 & 16. Use of Independent and Non-maintained school placements

We propose a review of the policy of placing special needs children with these schools with a view to making greater use of other LEA special schools which we believe will be equally as effective but less expensive. Savings generated will be reinvested directly into the Schools budget.

Environment, Regeneration & Development

17. Use of quarried rock

Our proposal to reduce the use of quarried rock is designed to ensure that as supplies of recycled material become increasingly available the Council makes the fullest use of this.

18. Solar Panels

We propose to invest in the purchase of solar panels for rent to householders in order to promote the use of renewable solar energy.

19. Bulk Waste Collection

We will look to reduce the current fee for bulk waste collection from £15 to £10 to encourage greater use of this facility and reduce fly tipping.

20 & 26. Energy Management

We propose to merge the two energy management functions within Housing and ER&D under one unit located within ER&D. This will provide a single function of advice and promotion of energy efficiency and generate efficiency savings.

21. Highways Maintenance

We propose to increase the budget for Highways Maintenance in order to help reduce the existing backlog of repairs and renewal.

22, 23 & 24. Public Conveniences & Street Cleaning

We propose to introduce a small charge (20p) for the use of toilets at St. Margaret's Bus Station and in the Market Place. This income will be utilised to reopen three other public toilets and to increase the provision of street cleaning.

Housing

25. Temporary accommodation

Reduction of growth proposal.

27. Housing Options Officers

We propose to delete this growth item.

Resources, Access & Diversity

28 & 29. Scrutiny Support

As 3. above we propose to create a scrutiny support function.

30. Amalgamation of Lord Mayor's and Member's Services functions

We propose an amalgamation of these services to provide a single source of support to members and to generate efficiency savings.

Social Care & Health

31. Staff Development

Deletion of two vacant posts (one administrative) within this function.

32. Meals on Wheels Service

We propose the introduction of an optional five day mobile block meal provision which will better meet the needs of some service users whilst generating small cost savings.

33. Support for Occupational Therapists

We propose additional clerical support and the provision of modern technology to Occupational Therapists in order to free up time for more contact with service users. We also propose a review of working arrangements with the Housing Department for disabled adaptations to increase the overall efficiency of the service and to reduce the backlog of outstanding assessments.

34. Internal recharges savings

We propose that the department partly reintroduce proposals to reduce the costs of internal recharges for support services.

Corporate

35. Employee Car Allowances

We believe that existing proposals will produce an increasing level of savings with the turnover of staff and the consequent loss of protection from revised arrangements.

36. Jobshop/Standby Register review

We propose a review of the Jobshop and the use of staff from the Standby Register that will generate savings through better management of resources.

37. Purchase of equipment for disabled access

We propose a single framework contract for the purchase of all access equipment which will generate greater value for money.

**COUNCIL
2003**

5 MARCH

**LIBERAL DEMOCRAT AMENDMENT TO LABOUR GROUP'S PROPOSED
BUDGET**

1 AMENDMENTS

- 1.1 Council is recommended to endorse the Departmental Revenue Strategies, subject to the following amendments:

Department/Function	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive's Office			
1 Reduce Leicester Promotions grant	(10.0)	(20.0)	(30.0)
2 Link distribution & production	(72.0)	(72.0)	(72.0)
3 Transfer 2 policy officers to scrutiny support	(75.0)	(75.0)	(75.0)
Cultural Services			
4 Public Arts - vacant posts	(69.0)	(69.0)	(69.0)
5 Sport on Parks relocation	25.0	0.0	0.0
6 Organisational review of Parks	(57.0)	(57.0)	(57.0)
7 6 Additional Park Rangers	114.0	114.0	114.0
8 Markets Officer - vacancy	(20.0)	(20.0)	(20.0)
9 Transfer Recreational Transport to ER&D	(4.0)	(17.0)	(17.0)
Education & Lifelong Learning			
LEA Block			
10 Reinstate Fosse Neighbourhood Centre	32.0	32.0	32.0
11 Policy & Communications Team - vacancies	(64.0)	(64.0)	(64.0)
12 Property & Contracts Team - remove growth	(55.0)	(55.0)	(55.0)
13 SEN Transport - promoting independence	10.0	0.0	0.0
14 Accommodation growth	(40.0)	(40.0)	(40.0)
15 Independent schools policy review	0.0	(50.0)	(50.0)
Schools Block			
16 Schools block growth	0.0	50.0	50.0
Environment, Regeneration & Development			
17 Reduced use of quarried rock	0.0	(5.0)	(5.0)
18 Solar Panels	40.0	40.0	0.0
19 Reduce bulk waste collection fee to £10	20.0	20.0	20.0
20 Merge Housing/ER&D energy teams	(8.0)	(32.0)	(32.0)
21 Additional highway maintenance	50.0	50.0	50.0
22 Charging for public conveniences (St. Margaret's & Market Place)	(81.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
23 Reopen 3 public conveniences (1 staffed)	80.0	40.0	40.0
24 Additional street cleaning	12.0	60.0	60.0
Housing			
25 Reduce growth proposal re. Temporary accommodation	(30.0)	(30.0)	(30.0)
26 Transfer energy team to ER&D/vacancies	(11.0)	(11.0)	(11.0)
27 Remove growth item of 4 additional options officers	(60.0)	(60.0)	(60.0)

	Resources, Access & Diversity			
28	Create scrutiny support function	94.0	94.0	94.0
29	Transfer 1 post from Member's Services to scrutiny support	(19.0)	(19.0)	(19.0)
30	Amalgamate Lord Mayor's & Member's Services functions	(36.0)	(50.0)	(50.0)
	Social Care & Health			
31	Staff Development - vacant posts	(37.0)	(37.0)	(37.0)
32	5 day meal option for Meals on Wheels	(1.0)	(2.0)	(2.0)
33	Additional support for Occupational Therapists and efficiency review	40.0	30.0	30.0
34	Savings on internal recharges	(50.0)	(50.0)	(50.0)
	Corporate			
35	Review of employee car allowances	(10.0)	(20.0)	(40.0)
36	Jobshop/Standby register review	(56.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
37	Single framework contract for disability equipment	(10.0)	(30.0)	(30.0)
	TOTAL	(358.0)	(555.0)	(625.0)

Reduce Council Tax rise to 4.9%	(258.0)
Reinstate reserves	(100.0)

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The Lord Mayor informed Council that she had agreed to the consideration of an item of urgent business in relation to the position of Chair of Social Services and Personal Health Scrutiny Committee, the matter being one of urgency due to there being a further meeting of that Scrutiny Committee prior to the ordinary meeting of the Council.

Moved by Councillor Clair, seconded by Councillor Willmott:-

120. "That, having regard to Councillor Gajjar's resignation from the Labour Group and the need for Labour Group representation on the Triumvirate of the Social Services and Personal Health Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Gajjar no longer hold the position of Chair of that Scrutiny Committee and, whilst remaining as an ordinary Member of the Committee, be replaced, with immediate effect, as Chair by Councillor Nurse."

There being an equality of votes in favour and against this Motion, the Lord Mayor used her casting vote in favour of the Motion and declared it to be carried.

The Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.04 p.m

