



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, 25 NOVEMBER 2004 duly convened for the business hereunder mentioned.

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BUSINESS

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1. **LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
2. **BY-ELECTION - KNIGHTON WARD**
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
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**

Licensing Policy
Leicester City Council Service Plan for Food Enforcement
Findings of Mal-administration by the Local Government Ombudsman
* Review of Support Services

* Objection Report

8. **CABINET AND COMMITTEES** - To vary the composition and fill any vacancies of Cabinet and any Committee of Council.

9. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

1. Moved by Councillor Willmott, seconded by Councillor Draycott:-

“The Council believes that we are faced with an unprecedented set of opportunities to regenerate our City and that the Cabinet and Leader should all be committed to securing these opportunities for the benefit of future generations.

This Council further believes that the current Leader’s approach along with that of a majority of the Cabinet, will fail to secure the benefits presented by the opportunity to regenerate our city. The lack of committed leadership from the whole Cabinet will mean that the people of Leicester will lose these once in a lifetime opportunities: a new performing arts centre whose design is not compromised, a cultural quarter we can be proud of, the implementation of the Masterplan, the redevelopment of the Shires and the rebuilding of our secondary schools to name but a few. Furthermore, the Development Control and Licensing Committees, as currently chaired, do not display any vision for our city of the future.

As a consequence the Council expresses a total loss of confidence in the current administration to deliver on these opportunities. The Council therefore agrees to the immediate removal from office of the Leader and entire Cabinet and Chairs of the Development Control and Licensing Committees and, thereafter, seeks nominations from within the Council to replace them.”

2. Moved by Councillor Roger Blackmore, seconded by Councillor Johnson:-

“This Council expresses its concern to Her Majesty’s Government over the likely impact of a ‘Las Vegas’ style casino being introduced in Leicester and instructs the Town Clerk to write to the city’s three M.P.s outlining these concerns in advance of the anticipated forthcoming legislation.”

10. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

PRESENT:

PIARA SINGH CLAIR, LORD MAYOR
CHAIRMAN

Abbey Ward

JOHN FITCH
MARGUERITE HENRY
PAUL EDWIN SMITH

Aylestone Ward

BARBARA CHAMBERS
NIGEL CARL PORTER

Beaumont Leys Ward

GORDON HARRY GETLIFFE
KEITH JOHN LLOYD-HARRIS
PAUL THOMAS WESTLEY

Belgrave Ward

COLIN JOHN HALL

Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields

JOY ELIZABETH SEARE
ANDREW KENNETH VINCENT

Castle Ward

DEBORAH JANE ALMEY
PATRICK JOSEPH KITTERICK
SUSAN ANDRÉE WADDINGTON

Charnwood Ward

WILLIAM HENRY SHELTON
JOHN WILLIAM THOMAS

Coleman Ward

MARY ELAINE DRAYCOTT

Freemen Ward

DALE DEREK KEELING
CARLYM ANNATAZIA SANDRINGHAM

Humberstone and Hamilton Ward

JOHN VINCENT MUGGLESTONE
ROMAN PETER SCUPLAK
STEPHEN MARTIN THOMPSON

Knighton Ward

JOAN GARRIT
ROSS IAN GRANT
GARY GLENDON HUNT

Latimer Ward

MANSUKLAL CHOCHAN
MANJULA PAUL SOOD

New Parks Ward

PATRICA BECK
JOHN STEPHEN BLACKMORE
STEPHEN PETER CORRALL

Rushey Mead Ward

CULDIPP SINGH BATTI
WINSTON STEPHEN NURSE
ROSS WILLMOTT

Spinney Hills Ward

MUSTAFA FAKIR KARIM
HASHIM CASSIM PANCHBAYA
MUSSA AHMED SALEH

Stoneygate Ward

PARMJIT SINGH GILL
ROBERT CHARLES RENOLD
HUSSEIN ISMAIL SULEMAN

Evington Ward

MICHAEL HOWARD JOHNSON
ANTHONY O'BRIEN

Eyres Monsell Ward

MARK EDWARD JOSEPH FARMER
DEAN STEVEN RAMSDALE

Fosse Ward

PHYLLIS MAY GREEN
ROBERT WANN

Thurncourt Ward

JOHN GRANT ALLEN
BRENDA MAW

Westcotes Ward

ANDREW IAN CONNELLY
ANDREW TESSIER

Western Park Ward

ROGER BRIAN BLACKMORE
PETER COLEY

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor's Spiritual Adviser, Canon Michael Wilson, opened the meeting in prayer.

The Lord Mayor informed Members, with regret, of the death of Councillor Ramnik Kavia, former Lord Mayor and Member for Belgrave Ward. Councillors Willmott, Roger Blackmore and Scuplak spoke to associate both themselves and members of their political groups with the Lord Mayor's expression of sympathy. Members stood in silence to the memory of Councillor Ramnik Kavia.

The Lord Mayor congratulated Councillor Sood on her recent Labour Party national recognition award.

BY-ELECTION - KNIGHTON WARD

The Town Clerk reported that, at the By-Election held in the Knighton Ward on 4 November 2004, Mr. Ross Ian Grant was duly elected to fill the vacancy which arose as a result of the death of Councillor Barry Coles. Councillor Grant had made the necessary Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor Scuplak introduced Councillor Grant to the Lord Mayor, after which Councillor Grant proceeded to his allocated seat.

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.

Councillor Thomas declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in the report of Cabinet on the Licensing Policy, being the President of the Leicester Railwaymen's Club. Councillor Allen also declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in the same report of Cabinet, being the Secretary of a Licensed Premise.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

42. "That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30 September 2004, having been printed and a copy sent to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and that they be approved as a correct record."

PETITIONS

PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Panchbhaya presented a petition with 49 signatures in the following terms:-

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, REQUEST THE LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHING RESIDENTS' PARKING SCHEME IN THE MOAT ROAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION AREA AND TO INTRODUCE A 'ONE WAY' SYSTEM IN GWENDOLEN ROAD LEICESTER AND INTRODUCE RESIDENTS' PARKING.

Councillor Roger Blackmore presented a petition with 210 signatures in the following terms:-

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, BEING RESIDENTS OF THE LETCHWORTH ROAD AREA, REQUEST THAT THE CITY COUNCIL CONSIDER THE INTRODUCTION OF SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES ALONG THE STRETCH OF LETCHWORTH ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH GLENFIELD ROAD AND THAT WITH AIKMAN AVENUE.

Councillor Waddington presented a petition with 1207 signatures in the following terms:-

Highfields Users Campaign. Highfields people have the right to expect dedicated support and services. Sign the petition to keep services and staff. Don't let Councillors and senior officers take away this right. As per the enclosed sheet, sign the petition to tell Leicester City Council to stop the Divisional Organisational Review (DOR), Implement Timiti's recommendations.

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

43. "That the aforementioned petitions presented by Members be referred to the Town Clerk for consideration and action as appropriate."

PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- None -

QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Josh Kirkup (accompanied by Curtis and Joe Driver) said we were a group of young people living on Amadis Road and Trigo Close, Beaumont Leys. We had formed a football team but have no facilities on our local Park (Keepers Lodge Park). Would Councillor Mugglestone look urgently into providing a football pitch and a ball court on Keepers Lodge Park to enable them to train and play games.

Councillor Mugglestone: My Lord Mayor. The last young person who presented a petition to this Council was the skateboarders which we had the great delight of opening last week. Can I thank these young people, and I believe it is your father is it with us today, for putting this question, and it is great to see young people and,

indeed, older people getting involved in forming teams for sports and taking children off the streets and giving them a healthy and active activity.

My reply I think will be a bit like the parson's egg, that it is good in parts. Since we received the question, the site has been investigated, my Lord Mayor, and the initial reports back to me say that it may be feasible to provide a community football pitch in the park. Therefore, my Lord Mayor, I am asking officers to set up a meeting with Mr. Kirkup and his fellow supporters to investigate the possibilities, and I believe they are strong possibilities, of putting a football pitch down.

As to the hand-standing ball court, there is at the moment, I regret to say, no plans or money set aside to finance a hard-standing surface on this site. However, my Lord Mayor, I will keep this request, along with others, to see what can be done in the future and formulate a future budget.

I hope that this satisfies you, it is as honest a report that I can give and it is a start to get a football pitch and can I say I wish you all the best in your endeavours as footballers. We want to see one or two more Gary Linakers come out of teams like yours, but I do wish you all the best in the league in whatever league you go into next year on your new pitch.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Draycott asked would the Cabinet Lead for Culture agree that the record attendance at firework/bonfire displays held this year, i.e. Abbey Park, Humberstone Park, Dasseru and Diwali Day and switch on ceremonies, could be a direct result of more responsible behaviour due to new Government legislation.

Councillor Mugglestone: Thank you, my Lord Mayor, I do not believe that the Government legislation had anything to do with this. What Government legislation did was to put down a framework for some respite from the irresponsible who want to let them off at two in the morning and sometimes later. What we now need to back that is one or two prosecutions to enforce this from the Police service that have had a 16% increase in monies in real terms over the past three years. My Lord Mayor, if only we had the same on this Council. In fact, I give the Leicester Mercury more credit with their campaign than to the Government efforts.

What the real cause of the popularity of these two wonderful displays, My Lord Mayor – I think you saw most of them – is the hard work and dedication of our Festivals Unit. They did a wonderful job in preparing the firework displays this year and I call on all Members of this Council to congratulate them. They did the really hard work, they did the work in advertising and preparing the fireworks, alright they did not let them off, that was down to some safety people, but it was their organisation on the 399th anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot, my Lord Mayor, and furthermore, I look forward to an even better display on the 400th anniversary of the failure of the Gunpowder Plot to take away democracy. These Catholics trying to blow us all up, my Lord Mayor, us honest Protestants, but it is the 400th anniversary next year, so I think next year we can probably look to do something special for the 400th and I would like to see it.

Councillor Draycott: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Congratulations, of course, to the Festivals Unit because, again, they did a sterling job for the last twelve months and that goes without saying. I always write in, particularly to do with Humberstone Park bonfire to say thank you because, like I say, an excellent job.

However, there has been record attendance at the four events which are referred to here, Lord Mayor, and I believe that is a direct result of the new legislation brought in this year. It may not have been 100% but the Police did prosecute. I believe there has been a reduction, certainly late nights of loud noises and fireworks being used and we have to do that again. Could the Cabinet Lead for Culture give assurances that none of these events are at any risk at all because I feel that would be a backward step and we should be encouraging people to come to these events rather than going to the risk of setting off fireworks individually? Lord Mayor, thank you.

Councillor Mugglestone: Well, can I agree with Councillor Draycott on that. I mean it is very rare me and Mary agree wholeheartedly but we do on this occasion. Organised bonfire displays are a safe thing and should be encouraged, my Lord Mayor. There was 8,000 apparently at the Humberstone Park fireworks. Regretfully, I was organising a display further down the road on Humberstone Lane which we had to have at the back of the pub because we have no parks or anything in that area to put them on, so we have to rely on the hospitality of the landlord and support his hospitality afterwards. No, it was an excellent night and does need encouraging. It will go on next year, the only problem I have, and I have to say it, with the Humberstone one is the fact that it is getting very, very popular on a small area and the health and safety side of it does give me a problem but I think it is a problem that should be addressed and it should be addressed by keeping it and, as far as I am concerned, it will go ahead next year.

The Lord Mayor: May I also share my views and echo the recognition of the hard work you have mentioned by the Festivals Unit. One thing which I would like to add is that it is also theirs and the hard work of others which brings the sponsors on board to gain some extra money, so I hope they will be able to keep up the good work and keep the sponsors on board with money to come next year.

Councillor Getliffe asked, in response to the recent review of transport to and from day centres for people with learning disabilities, would the Cabinet Lead for Health and Social Care give an assurance to the families and carers that no service user would be disadvantaged by the changes.

Councillor Vincent: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. I would like to thank Councillor Getliffe for this question.

The recent review of transport was undertaken to ensure service users who have been assessed as needing transport received it in a cost effective manner and in a way that best met their needs.

My Lord Mayor, Councillor Getliffe, I am sure, is well aware of the modernisation of day services plan. He, as a previous Chair of the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board, supported the principle of promoting independence and providing services in community settings or in colleges of further education. The implementation of the modernisation plan means that there will be changes in transport arrangements for some service users. However, this will be based on their assessed need and will be part of their care plans. From this point of view, no service users will be disadvantaged. They will receive transport services according to their assessed needs as outlined in their care plans. Thank you, my Lord Mayor.

Councillor Getliffe: I thank Councillor Vincent for the answer. I understand that the review of transport was due to predict an overspend somewhere in the region of

£400,000 on transport costs. Will Councillor Vincent comment regarding active rumours that, in fact, the review was forced as a result of an alleged cartel operated within taxi firms across the city, allegedly, Lord Mayor, leading to vastly inflated charges? If the rumours are true, the result obviously being the waste of public money that the Social Care Department can ill-afford. Will Councillor Vincent look urgently into this matter and get back with an answer? Thank you, Lord Mayor.

Councillor Vincent: There is a need to provide the most cost effective way of arranging transport and, if this requires further investigation, I will be asking the Director of Social Services to carry out that investigation to ensure that the residents of this city, whilst getting their transport needs fulfilled, the taxpayers also get the best value for money for that service. Thank you, my Lord Mayor.

Councillor Getliffe asked did the Cabinet Lead for Resources agreed that if a job needs doing it was the responsibility of this Council that the job should be finished properly, especially if the work entailed a matter of health and safety to members of the public.

Councillor Coley: Thank you, Lord Mayor. This Council takes all matters of health and safety very seriously and the safety of the public is paramount in all the services delivered by the Council, Lord Mayor.

Councillor Getliffe: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. In response to a question from a Councillor earlier this year, I and concerned residents were assured that a problem with flooding on Tilling Walk would be addressed. Some work has been carried out but the problem has returned and is still a danger to the public attempting to use the footpath. Would the Cabinet Lead now give an assurance that the remedial work will be carried out as a matter of urgency on health and safety grounds and that work will be carried out properly and finally to resolve the problem, thank you?

Councillor Coley: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I will certainly undertake to see what still needs to be done. I thought that was being dealt with and so, yes, we will take it up and see what needs to be done and resolve it and let you know obviously on that.

Councillor Waddington asked would the Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Suleman, reconsider his decision to refuse to provide her with copies of the briefing papers and minutes of meetings he held with officers over the summer period about the future of Highfields Youth and Community Centre, its staffing and the review of Lifelong Learning, and would he provide her with these documents as soon as possible.

Councillor Suleman: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. As I have mentioned in this Chamber before, it is a matter for me whether I choose to disclose my papers or not and, as of this moment, I have not reconsidered it and I will not. Thank you, my Lord Mayor.

Councillor Waddington: Thank you very much, my Lord Mayor. Could I ask a supplementary to the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning? Is he aware of the fact that, from January 2005, the Freedom of Information Act comes into force which allows for transparency and accountability in public life and, indeed, in other areas? Bearing in mind this is retrospective, would he not, therefore, consider that he should give me the papers now, otherwise I shall only ask again in January and then I will have the law on my side?

Councillor Suleman: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. I am prepared to wait for the law to be actually implemented because whether I am required to disclose my papers or not has yet to be actually implemented and I will ask Councillor Waddington to stop playing games. If she actually wants to ask me a direct question on a specific, I am quite happy that I may actually answer that question. If she knows something that maybe I have overlooked, I am quite happy to address that as well in private or in the Chamber, Councillor Waddington, so I will afford you that. It is not being stubborn but I think I am within my rights to not disclose anything at this present moment. I will wait for the Act to be implemented. Thank you, my Lord Mayor.

Councillor Kitterick asked did the administration support the continued existence of the Workplace Nursery and would they restate their commitment to allow the Nursery to become self-sufficient over two years.

Councillor Suleman: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. The administration supports the continued existence of the Workplace Nursery on a self-sufficient funding basis. Where any overspends are being forecast remedial actions are being worked on to resolve this.

Councillor Kitterick: My Lord Mayor, is the Cabinet Link for Education aware of the disquiet and frustrations of parents and children attending this nursery at the lack of co-operation they are receiving from the Education Department? Would the Cabinet Link agree with me that it would be a great shame to lose the Workplace Nursery when the parents have shown a great deal of flexibility, only by on the blocking by the Education Department and finally, Lord Mayor, would the Cabinet Link for Education give us a pledge to work with the parents in a non-partisan way on clearing these blockages to ensure the survival of the Workplace Nursery?

Councillor Suleman: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. I thank Councillor Kitterick for bringing this to my attention as well because I did not know there was this blocking system going on and I am quite prepared to actually go with what Councillor Kitterick wants to do on working with the parents and ensuring that officers of the Education Department work closely together and move forward this nursery and make sure it is self-sufficient very soon.

Councillor Farmer asked would the Leader of the Council please confirm that the Chairs of the Licensing and Development Control Committees should not act in a political way in their respective roles.

Councillor Roger Blackmore: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. I'm sorry about the academic answer, but Members will know that the role of the Development Control Committee is to determine planning applications and deal with enforcement matters and these decisions must be based on planning considerations. They must have regard to national, regional and local planning policies and guidelines and the rules are that political considerations must not feature in the decision making process. The Chair of Development Control must operate within these parameters.

The position of Licensing is also to have regard to the new licensing provisions. Members here are acting in a quasi-judicial role so it is slightly different again and, therefore, proper procedures have to be followed because this part of the decision making process, has to accord with the provisions of natural justice and the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights.

That is quite complex and I know that raises the question of training so a Code of

Practice for Members involved in liquor licensing is now in course of preparation as this obviously is a new area. The Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture will be arranging for Members to be given appropriate training and it is envisaged that the Council's Standards Committee will be involved in finalising the Code of Practice. That is as thorough as I am able to reply to your question so you could say the answer is yes.

Councillor Farmer: Thank you, Leader, for confirming that the Chair should not be political in their roles. Therefore, Lord Mayor, should the [Labour] Group Leader over there be reported to the Standards Committee for submitting a Motion that suggests that the Chairs of those Committees should be political or is this just another example of a botched opposition?

Councillor Roger Blackmore: I trust, Lord Mayor, that my esteemed colleague is not tempting me to make partisan political comments because I would not obviously do. Yes, it is rather silly for anybody to suggest that these decisions should be subject to partisan, political considerations. I think it is difficult enough anyway. Those of us who are not vastly experienced in serving on Planning Committees, try to avoid it like the plague, will realise this is not easy, and the same as acting in a quasi-judicial process is not easy. I think it is very silly to make points here on a party and political basis.

This is also very serious, Lord Mayor, because this is what used to happen, one of the problems. Any of you who have read A.J. Cronin's 'The Stars Look Down' will remember the sort of thing that used to go on as recounted there in notorious planning committees when planning applications were extremely dubious.

My esteemed colleague, Councillor Farmer suggested, My Lord Mayor, that Councillor Willmott was showing himself as a botched opposition, he has certainly showed that on a few occasions. I am trying to work out if this is one of the worst, where it is the Richter Scale, but I think it is a serious point and I would like to say, I should like to pay tribute to Members of all parties. I always felt they gave up a lot of time and effort on planning and sub-groups. I remember when Councillor Mugglestone came on a site visit in my Ward, a stranger to a place at the back of Kirby Road, and a lot of time was taken up in cold weather about a thing of which I knew little, it was extremely helpful in terms of understanding procedure so, to all of you who take part and spend your hours on Planning Committees and Licensing Committees making sometimes difficult decisions, may I say a personal thanks and I think Councillor Farmer you probably have a point but I am a bit charitable in these matters.

Councillor Farmer asked would the Cabinet Link for Resources, Access and Diversity inform the Council as to what the level of additional funding from European sources gained this year was.

Councillor Coley: Thank you, Lord Mayor. The total level of additional funding from European sources which is available in 2004/05 is approximately £4.8 million. This comprises of £2.5 million for the City Council sponsored schemes and £2.3 million for other non-City Council schemes in Leicester. In addition, work done this year has given rise to a further allocation of £4 million for Leicester from the European Regional Development Fund over the next four years, a large percentage of which is expected to be spent on City Council sponsored schemes.

Councillor Farmer: Would the Cabinet Link Member agree with me that this administration, that regeneration is doing better under this administration than it

ever was in the decades of the Labour mismanagement.

Councillor Coley: Well, it certainly shows that there are large amounts of funding coming into this city. We have got an enormous amount of regeneration going on at this minute in the city centre which is being regenerated. We are just about to kick off on schools being regenerated. The level of regeneration under this administration is greater than this past century so, yes, I would tend to agree with that.

Councillor Farmer asked would the Leader of the Council please inform him as to how many jobs would approximately be created by the Shires West Development.

Councillor Roger Blackmore: The Shires West Development and the straightforward answer and I quote “as evidenced is the project, the Shires West Development, will create in the region of 3,000 jobs”. I am quoting Julian Wells, the Hammerson Director, as quoted in the Leicester Mercury on 3 March 2004. Most of this will be in retail and associated trades such as customer care and hospitality.

The City Council is working to, with a programme that will meet the increased demand for skills in the retail and construction sectors. In fact I was this morning having discussions with the local college in relation to this and that obviously is very important so we hope that the new jobs will benefit the locality, are accessible to those in the more disadvantaged communities in Leicester and do not displace existing staff.

A city-wide Construction Project Team has been established to work with developers such as Hammerson, a partnership between Leicester City Council and the Leicester Shire Economic Partnership, the city-wide Construction Project Team aims to ensure that training and employment opportunities are made available to disadvantaged groups, as I say, throughout the city, also maximise local job and training opportunities. I mean this is a huge development, I want to pay particular tribute to all those Councillors, including Councillor Farmer, in the administration who have played a very active personal part in encouraging this and I hope I have given you the figures you want.

Councillor Ramsdale asked would the Cabinet Lead for Resources, Access and Diversity join with him in welcoming the passing of the Civil Partnership Bill as a rare extension of our civil rights by a Government with a long record of restricting both individual and collective freedoms, and would he undertake to bring a report to Cabinet outlining the Council's plans for implementation of the new Act which would allow same sex couples to have their relationships formally recognised and their legal rights established in law.

Councillor Coley: Thank you, Lord Mayor. As Members may be aware, the Act received the Royal Assent on 18 November 2004. The Government expects the provisions of the Act to be brought into effect approximately one year later, but within the year.

Within the city of Leicester, I know that the Registration Services Team is already planning for the introduction of this new service. Unfortunately, the necessary Regulations and the associated Guidance are not expected for some months yet so I cannot, at this stage, put a firm timescale on this process. However, I will ensure that the legislation is implemented as speedily as possible.

Detailed implementation arrangements will be brought before the Cabinet and/or

REOPPs Scrutiny as appropriate.

Councillor Ramsdale would the Cabinet Lead for Education and Lifelong Learning inform him how much funding the Council had given to Gold Hill Adventure Playground in his Ward for the financial year 2004/05 and how this compared with 2003/04 in percentage terms.

Councillor Suleman: Thank you, my Lord Mayor.

The funding for Gold Hill Adventure Playground in 2004/05 is £84,000. This actually represents an increase, and I emphasise the word increase, of 12.2%. The reason I keep saying the word 'increase', because there is a nice ring to that, because last year's budget strategy by the Opposition actually asked for, if I remember rightly, for funding to be maintained at the previous year's levels, which actually, my Lord Mayor, had actually meant that it was in real terms a cut in funding to playgrounds for children. Now that really proves, my Lord Mayor, that this substantial increase that this administration has implemented clearly demonstrates that the improvement of these facilities for the young people is important and it clearly demonstrates that what the Opposition were actually proposing are what I would call stealth cuts. Thank you, my Lord Mayor.

REPORTS OF CABINET

LICENSING POLICY (Decision reserved to Council)

The Cabinet at its meeting on 8 November, considered a report seeking endorsement of a Licensing Policy following public consultation.

Subsequent to the report that went to Cabinet, an additional submission was also received from Leicestershire Constabulary and a report on the use of powers under the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003, both of which were circulated to Members.

The Cabinet resolved that Cabinet endorse the Licensing Policy and the special policy on cumulative impact, prior to formal approval by full Council.

The City Council is asked to approve the attached Licensing Policy and the special policy on cumulative impact.

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

44. "That the City Council approve the Council's Licensing Policy, as appended to the Council Report, and the special policy on cumulative impact as detailed within the Council Report."

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL SERVICE PLAN FOR FOOD ENFORCEMENT (Decision reserved to Council)

The Cabinet at its meeting on 8 November, considered a report presenting the Service Plan for Food Enforcement 2004/05.

The Cabinet agreed to recommend the Service Plan to Council.

The Council is asked to approve the Service Plan for Food Enforcement.

Moved by Councillor Ramsdale, seconded by Councillor Sandringham, and carried:-

45. "That the City Council approve the Service Plan for Food Enforcement."

FINDINGS OF MALADMINISTRATION BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN
(Decision reserved to Council)

The Cabinet at its meeting on 8 November, considered a report which set out findings made by the Local Government Ombudsman following the investigations into a complaint regarding a delay in dealing with a Housing Benefit application. The report also set out the remedies that the Ombudsman recommended the Council implemented to provide just satisfaction to the complainant for the findings of maladministration leading to injustice.

The Cabinet agreed to support the recommendations of the Ombudsman

The Council is asked to:

- (1) accept the Ombudsman's recommendations, with the payment of £3000 released to Miss Paul
- (2) review its procedures to ensure that thorough checks are made to identify and address issues before possession proceedings and evictions go ahead
- (3) credit and enforcement costs cleared by Miss Paul (£221.75) to her rent account.

Moved by Councillor Roger Blackmore, seconded by Councillor Allen, and carried:-

46. "That, in respect of the findings of mal-administration by the Local Government Ombudsman in relation to a complaint regarding a delay in dealing with a Housing Benefit claim, Council:-

- (i) accepts the Ombudsman's recommendations with the payment of £3,000 to Miss Paul;
- (ii) reviews its procedures to ensure that thorough checks are made to identify and address issues before possession proceedings and evictions go ahead; and,
- (iii) credit the court and enforcement costs cleared by Miss Paul (£221.75) to her rent account."

OBJECTION TO DECISION
SUPPORT SERVICES REVIEW

In accordance with Rule 12 of the Cabinet Procedure Rules, Councillors Willmott, (proposer), Bhatti (seconder), Corral, Draycott and J. Blackmore, have objected to

the decision of Cabinet held on 8 November 2004 with regard to the above.

The submitted grounds for objection are:-

'because of the high costs involved in achieving these long term savings'

The extract of the minutes of the Cabinet on 8 November 2004 is set out below:-

EXTRACT FROM CABINET MINUTES –8 November 2004

Councillor Coley submitted a report seeking Cabinet's approval to a review of the Council's support services with a view to recommending the most efficient and effective future arrangements. UNISON's comments on the review had been circulated. It was noted that UNISON had requested that the item be deferred to allow them more time to comment. However, as they would be considered as part of any review, it was not considered there was a case for delay.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That a review of support services be commissioned;
- (2) that the scope of the review as detailed in the report be approved; and
- (3) that the costs of the review be met from projected savings in this year's corporate budgets.

The report was also considered by the Resources and Equal Opportunities Scrutiny Committee on 11 November. The relevant minute extract from this meeting will be circulated when it is available.

The City Council is recommended to consider the report.

Under the provisions of Cabinet Procedure Rule 12 (h), the Council may either confirm the decision of Cabinet which would take immediate effect or refer the matter back to Cabinet with an alternative recommendation for Cabinet to consider.

Moved by Councillor Coley, seconded by Councillor Karim:-

47. "That the decision taken by Cabinet, at their meeting on 8 November 2004, in respect of the Support Services Review, be confirmed."

AN AMENDMENT

Moved by Councillor Bhatti, seconded by Councillor Willmott:-

"That in view of the review of Support Services being too large and ambitious, the report be referred back to Cabinet for further consideration."

The Lord Mayor put the Amendment to the vote and declared it lost. The Lord Mayor put the substantive Motion to the vote and declared it carried.

The Lord Mayor stated that, having regard to the next two items on the Council Agenda, it would be more appropriate to re-order the two items and consider the first of the two Notices of Motion before the item on Committees, and that he was, therefore, using his prerogative to that effect.

CABINET AND COMMITTEES

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

50. "That the Council appoint to the Cabinet, Chairs and Vice Chairs of Regulatory Committees and Scrutiny Triumvirates as follows:-

CABINET

Leader and Regeneration	Councillor Willmott
Deputy Leader	Councillor Draycott
Cabinet Member	Councillor Corral
Cabinet Member	Councillor Bhatti
Cabinet Member	Councillor Connelly
Cabinet Member	Councillor Kitterick
Cabinet Member	Councillor Getliffe
Cabinet Member	Councillor Waddington

REGULATORY COMMITTEES

Development Control

Chair	Councillor Mugglestone
Vice Chair	Councillor Wann

Licensing

Chair	Councillor O'Brien
Vice Chair	Councillor Wann

Licensing Sub

Chair	Councillor Wann
Vice-Chair	Councillor Porter

SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

That in view of the Council's reasons for removing the Cabinet, and to ensure future effective scrutiny, there needs to be resulting changes in the various Triumvirates as follows:-

Education

Chair	Councillor Johnson
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson	Councillor Fitch
Labour Spokesperson	Councillor Sood

Health and Social Care

Health Stream

Chair	Councillor Garrity
Labour Spokesperson	Councillor Westley

Conservative Spokesperson	Councillor Porter
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Social Care Stream

Chair	Councillor Nurse
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson	Councillor Almey
Conservative Spokesperson	Councillor Chambers

Housing

Chair	Councillor Allen
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson	Councillor Smith
Labour Spokesperson	Councillor Wann

Resources and Equal Opportunities

Chair	Councillor Karim
Labour Spokesperson	Councillor John Blackmore
Conservative Spokesperson	Councillor Grant

Leisure and Environment

Cultural Services Stream

Chair	Councillor Shelton
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson	Councillor Sandringham
Conservative Spokesperson	Councillor Maw

Highways and Transportation Stream

Chair	Councillor Thompson
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson	Councillor Panchbhaya
Labour Spokesperson	Councillor Hall

Strategic Planning and Regeneration

Chair	Councillor Scuplak
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson	Councillor Farmer
Labour Spokesperson	Councillor Thomas

The Notice of Motion (2) relating to the likely impact of a 'Las Vegas' style casino being introduced in Leicester was not moved. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16 (d) the Motion was, therefore, treated as abandoned.

NOTICES OF MOTION

The Lord Mayor stated that, having regard to the next two items on the Council Agenda, it would be more appropriate to re-order the two items and consider the first of the two Notices of Motion before the item on Committees, and that he was, therefore, using his prerogative to that effect.

NOTICES OF MOTION

During the course of the debate it was moved by Councillor Mugglestone, seconded by Councillor Willmott, and carried:-

48. "That, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 22, a single extension of time be granted for the speech by Councillor Scuplak, and that be an extension of 10 minutes for this speaker."

Moved by Councillor Willmott, seconded by Councillor Draycott:-

49. "Council believes that we are faced with an unprecedented set of opportunities to regenerate our City and that the Cabinet and Leader should all be committed to securing these opportunities for the benefit of future generations.

This Council further believes that the current Leader's approach along with that of a majority of the Cabinet, will fail to secure the benefits presented by the opportunity to regenerate our city. The lack of committed leadership from the whole Cabinet will mean that the people of Leicester will lose these once in a lifetime opportunities: a new performing arts centre whose design is not compromised, a cultural quarter we can be proud of, the implementation of the Masterplan, the redevelopment of the Shires and the rebuilding of our secondary schools to name but a few. Furthermore, the Development Control and Licensing Committees, as currently chaired, do not display any vision for our city of the future.

As a consequence the Council expresses a total loss of confidence in the current administration to deliver on these opportunities. The Council therefore agrees to the immediate removal from office of the Leader and entire Cabinet and Chairs of the Development Control and Licensing Committees and, thereafter, seeks nominations from within the Council to replace them."

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

The Lord Mayor adjourned the meeting from 7.30 to 9.25 p.m.

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The Lord Mayor indicated that he had agreed to take, as a matter of urgent business, a report on the Capital Investment Strategy 2005/06 to 2007/08, which had been omitted from the Council Agenda. The reason for the urgency is that the Capital Programme 2005/08 is being developed in line with this strategy and the capital programme will be considered at the January 2005 Council Meeting.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2005/06 TO 2007/08 (Decision reserved to Council)

The Cabinet at its meeting on 27 September, considered a report which proposed a Capital Investment Strategy 2005/06 to 2007/08.

The Cabinet agreed the capital strategy, as a draft for consultation with key parties,

subject to deletion of provisions whereby housing capital receipts can be retained for corporate purposes and insertion of a provision requiring a predetermined level of housing resources to be treated as corporate each year.

The consultation is now complete and no comments have been received.

Members were also supplied with the minute extract from the Resources and Equal Opportunities Scrutiny Committee.

The City Council is asked to consider and approve a Capital Investment Strategy 2005/06 to 2007/08.

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

50. "That the City Council approve the Capital Investment Strategy 2005/06 to 2007/08."

The Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m

