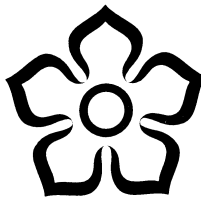


Thursday, 22 January 2015



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, 22 JANUARY 2015 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. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 13 November 2014 are available to view at <http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk:8071/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=81&MId=6578&Ver=> Copies are also available from Democratic Support on 0116 454 6352 / committees@leicester.gov.uk

4. PETITIONS

- Presented by Members of the Public
- Presented by Councillors

5. QUESTIONS

- From Members of the Public
- From Councillors

6. MATTERS RESERVED TO COUNCIL

- 6.1 Capital Programme 2015 / 16*
- 6.2 Treasury Strategy 2015 / 16
- 6.3 Call-In Of Executive Decision – City Council Golf Courses

* A colour list of the 'R-A-G' overview of projects is attached to the agenda for Councillors

7. REPORTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

- 7.1 Revision to the Constitution
- 7.2 Access to Information Procedure Rule 17 – Monitoring Report

8. EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES

To note any changes to the Executive, or fill any vacancies of any Committee of Council.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Proposed by Councillor Potter, seconded by Councillor Naylor:

The council notes:

- It has been estimated that the UK Treasury loses as much as £12 billion to tax dodging by multinational companies every year. Developing countries lose three times more to tax dodging than they receive in aid each year – enough to give a basic education to the 57 million children currently missing out.
- The UK has a particular responsibility to end tax dodging, as it is responsible for 1 in 5 of the world's tax havens in the British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.
- The use of tax havens by UK companies is rife, with 98 of the FTSE 100 companies routinely using tax havens.
- Large multinational companies pay as little as 5% in corporate taxes globally, while smaller businesses pay up to 30%.

This council believes:

- As a local authority we have a duty to provide the best possible public services.
- Our ability to provide quality local services would be significantly enhanced by the increased revenues from the government tackling tax dodging.
- All who benefit from public spending should contribute their fair share.
- The UK must take a lead role in creating a fairer tax system and combatting tax dodging.

This council resolves:

- To support the campaign for tax justice by supporting the motion:

“While many ordinary people face falling household income and rising costs of living, some multinational companies are avoiding billions of pounds of tax from a tax system that fails to make them pay their fair share. Local governments in developing countries and the UK alike would benefit from a fairer tax system where multinational companies pay their fair share, enabling authorities around the world to provide quality public services. The UK government must listen to the strength of public feeling and act to end the injustice of tax dodging by large multinational companies, in developing countries and the UK.”

10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

PRESENT:

JOHN THOMAS, LORD MAYOR
CHAIRMAN

SIR PETER SOULSBY – CITY MAYOR

Abbey Ward

HARSHAD DAHYABHAI BHAVSAR
ANNETTE BYRNE
VIJAY SINGH RIYAIT

Freemen Ward

ELLY CUTKELVIN
WILLIAM HENRY SHELTON

Aylestone Ward

ADAM CLARKE
NIGEL CARL PORTER

Humberstone and Hamilton Ward

RITA PATEL
BARBARA ANNE POTTER
GURINDER SINGH SANDHU

Beaumont Leys Ward

VIOLET GEDDES GRAHAM DEMPSTER
SUNDIP MEGHANI

Knighton Ward

ROSS GRANT
INDERJIT SINGH GUGNANI
DR LYNN MOORE

Belgrave Ward

RASHMIKANT JOSHI

Latimer Ward

MANJULA PAUL SOOD

Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields

MICHAEL ERNEST COOKE
WAYNE JAN NAYLOR

New Parks Ward

DAWN ALFONSO
STEPHEN PETER CORRALL
MALCOLM WILLIAM UNSWORTH

Castle Ward

NEIL CLAYTON
PATRICK JOSEPH KITTERICK
LYNN SENI R

Rushey Mead Ward

CULDIPP SINGH BHATTI
PIARA SINGH CLAIR
ROSS WILLMOTT

Charnwood Ward

PAUL DARREN NEWCOMBE
ABDUL RAZAK OSMAN

Spinney Hills Ward

HANIF AQBANY
SHOFIQL ISLAM CHOWDHURY
MOHAMMED DAWOOD

Coleman Ward

MIAN MOHAMMED MAYAT
DEBORAH SANGSTER

Stoneygate Ward

LUCY CHAPLIN
IQBAL ALIBHAI DESAI

Evington Ward

DEEPAK BAJAJ
BALJIT SINGH

Eyres Monsell Ward

VIRGINIA CLEAVER
RORY PALMER

Fosse Ward

TED CASSIDY
SUSAN WADDINGTON

MUSTAFA KAMAL

Thurncourt Ward

LUIS FONSECA
ROBERT WANN

Westcotes Ward

ANDREW IAN CONNELLY
SARAH CHRISTINE RUSSELL

Western Park Ward

DR SUSAN BARTON
GEORGE COLE

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Before the meeting formally commenced the Lord Mayor invited his Chaplain to say an appropriate prayer.

The Legacy of Abraham Lincoln

The Lord Mayor informed Council that this year '2015' marked the 150th anniversary of the assassination of the US President Abraham Lincoln. Back in 1865 the City Council had marked this terrible event by passing a resolution and writing a letter expressing its condolences. Following a request from the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, the Lord Mayor and City Mayor had agreed to write to the museum expressing support for the project highlighting Lincoln's continuing inspirational legacy for the issues we still face today through his work for the emancipation of slaves 150 years ago. The letter would then be paired with the earlier letter and exhibited in the museum and viewable across the world via the online archive.

Annual Council 2015

The Lord Mayor asked Members to note that, in line with the legislative requirements concerning when Annual Council can be held in an election year, the Annual Council for 2015 would be held on 21st May.

Black Tie Dinner

The Lord Mayor was pleased to announce that the total for his appeal currently stood at £11,756 and gave details of two forthcoming events:

- 'The Lord Mayor's Charity Black Tie Dinner' in support of the Lord Mayor's Appeal to be held on Saturday 21 February 2015 at Devonshire Place, London Road, Leicester; and
- Charity Quiz Night on Thursday 26th February 2015 to be held at the Railway Club.

Tickets and information for both events were available from the Member & Civic Support Office.

The Lord Mayor informed Council that the amount raised for his appeal currently stood at £11,756.

Former Councillor Mohammed Nasim and Honorary Alderman Bert Russell

The Lord Mayor informed Council with great regret of the loss of former Councillor Mohammed Nasim (who represented the Crown Hills ward) who had passed away on 15 December 2014 and Honorary Alderman Bert Russell, a former Councillor for the Abbey Ward who had passed away in January 2015 and paid tribute to their work for the City.

The Council observed a minutes silence in their memory.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Lord Mayor invited Members to declare any interests they may have in the business on the agenda.

Councillor Potter declared an Other Disclosable Interests in relation to

- Question 12 at Item 5 on the agenda as she was a Council tenant and had family members who were Council tenants.
- Question 14 at Item 5 on the agenda as she was a regular user of the road; and
- Item 6.1 'Capital Programme 2015/16' as she was a Council tenant and had family members who were Council tenants.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

25. That the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 13 November 2014, a copy having been circulated to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and that they be approved as a correct record.

PETITIONS

PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Dawood presented a petition with 151 signatures in the following terms:

"We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to rectify the ramps and remove the bollards in our areas. (Morley Road /St. Saviour's Hill and surrounding roads.)

The supporting background information for submitting the petition is that the current ramps are used by children as a playing surface, which can be a dangerous hazard; furthermore the bollards are taking up vital parking space, which is already in shortage in our areas."

Councillor Chaplin presented a petition with 52 signatures in the following terms:

"We, the undersigned, petition the City Council to extend the lighting for (festival) Eid celebration to include St Stephen's Road, Leicester. We demand that the Council fully fund and install the lighting for Eid."

The Lord Mayor stated that under Council Procedure Rule 13a the aforementioned petitions will be referred to the Monitoring Officer for consideration and action as appropriate.

QUESTIONS

MATTERS RESERVED TO COUNCIL

Capital Programme 2015 / 16

A report of the Director of Finance was considered which sought for a Capital Programme for 2015/16. It was noted that the capital programme was split into 2 parts, immediate starts where schemes have the authority to commence following approval of the programme and policy provisions where the purpose of funding is defined but monies will not be released until specific proposals have been considered by the Executive.

Moved by the City Mayor, seconded by the Deputy City Mayor and carried:

26. That Council:

- (a) Approve the capital programme described in this report and summarised at Appendix 2 to the report, subject to any amendments proposed by the City Mayor;
- (b) For those schemes designated immediate starts, delegate authority to the lead director to commit expenditure, subject to the normal requirements of contract procedure rules and finance procedure rules;
- (c) Delegate authority to the City Mayor to determine a plan of spending for each policy provision; and to commit expenditure up to the maximum available;
- (d) For the purposes of finance procedure rules:
 - Determine that service resources shall consist of service revenue contributions; HRA revenue contributions; and government grants/third party contributions ring-fenced for specific purposes (which, for the avoidance of doubt, includes grants for which we are the accountable body);
 - Designate the transport maintenance programme as a programme area, within which the director can reallocate resources to meet operational requirements;
 - Designate the transport improvement programme as a programme area;
 - Designate the following HRA schemes as 3 discrete programme areas: investment in council owned housing, business and technological investment, and environmental improvements.
- (e) Determine that the City Mayor may increase any scheme in the programme, or add a new scheme to the programme, subject to a

maximum of £10m corporate resources;

- (f) Determine that the City Mayor may reduce or delete any capital programme provision, subject to a maximum of 20% of scheme value for “immediate starts”; and may transfer any “policy provision” to the “immediate starts” category;
- (g) Delegate to directors, in consultation with the relevant assistant mayor, authority to incur expenditure in respect of policy provisions on design and other professional fees and preparatory studies, but not any other type of expenditure.

Treasury Strategy

A report of the Director of Finance was considered which sought to establish the strategy for the management of Council’s borrowing and investments during 2015/16.

Moved by the City Mayor, seconded by the Deputy City Mayor and carried:

27. That Council:

Approves the treasury strategy, and the authorised borrowing limit as detailed in paragraph 6.3 of the report. Other than limits which apply specifically to 2015/16, the Council gives this strategy immediate effect.

The Lord Mayor called a short adjournment at 7.12pm

The meeting restarted at 7.35pm

Call-In Of Executive Decision – City Council Golf Courses

In accordance with Rule 12 of the City Mayor and Executive Procedure Rules, Councillors Barton (proposer), Unsworth (seconder), Cole, Westley and Newcombe had objected to the decision of the City Mayor of 11 December 2014 with regard to the above.

The submitted grounds for objection were:-

“The decision to close Western Park Golf Course will have a detrimental impact on golfers in West Leicester and on the city’s sport and outdoor leisure provision. This is a request to call in the decision to scrutiny.”

Also in accordance with Rule 12 of the Executive Procedure Rules, Councillors Porter (proposer), Naylor (seconder), Grant, Glover, and Potter had objected to the decision of the City Mayor of 11 December 2014 with regard to the above.

The submitted grounds for objection were:-

“That the decision is based upon an incomplete consultation(s) and subjective evidence. The decision is significant and requires the scrutiny and consideration of

the Full Council.”

A copy of the original decision together with the Executive report and minute of the Overview Select Committee on 15 January 2015 which had considered the matter had been sent to Members and were available at the meeting.

The Lord Mayor advised that the matter would be dealt with under Rule 12 of Part 4d of the City Mayor and Executive Procedure Rules. The Lord Mayor noted that whilst two separate objections had been received they both related to one decision. He also noted that two separate motions had been received, one of which had been published in the script available at the meeting and one which had been circulated during the adjournment. He therefore informed Council that it was his intention to deal with the two motions separately and first to address the motion which had been included on the script.

Moved by Councillor Barton, seconded by Councillor Unsworth and carried:-

28. That Council requests that the decision to close Western Park Golf Course is referred back to the Executive to allow for the reconsideration of alternative business plans.

Moved by Councillor Porter and seconded by Councillor Naylor:

That any interested party, wishing to take on the management of the Western Park Golf Course, be given the opportunity to produce a proposal and enter into talks with the Council's Sports Dept. before 30th April 2015, with a briefing being made available for councillors as to the situation on the same date. If no group has shown interest in running the golf course by this date, then the original decision to move towards the closure of the golf course should be upheld.

Under Council Procedure Rule 18c Councillors Porter and Naylor as proposers and seconders of the motion sought the consent of Council to the amendment of the date specified in the motion to 1 October 2015.

The Lord Mayor put the modification of the motion to the vote and declared it carried.

There followed a debate.

The Lord Mayor put the modified motion (ie incorporating the modification as accepted by Council) to the vote and declared it lost.

REPORTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

Revision to the Constitution

Moved by the City Mayor, seconded by Councillor Clayton and carried:

29. That the report be withdrawn.

Access to Information Procedure Rule 17 – Monitoring Report

Moved by Councillor Connelly, seconded by City Mayor and carried:

30. That Council note that the Special Urgency provisions were used once in the preceding quarter, in the circumstances set out at 3.5 of the report.

EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES

None.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Moved by Councillor Potter, seconded by Councillor Naylor and carried:

31. The council notes:

- It has been estimated that the UK Treasury loses as much as £12 billion to tax dodging by multinational companies every year. Developing countries lose three times more to tax dodging than they receive in aid each year – enough to give a basic education to the 57 million children currently missing out.
- The UK has a particular responsibility to end tax dodging, as it is responsible for 1 in 5 of the world's tax havens in the British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.
- The use of tax havens by UK companies is rife, with 98 of the FTSE 100 companies routinely using tax havens.
- Large multinational companies pay as little as 5% in corporate taxes globally, while smaller businesses pay up to 30%.

This council believes:

- As a local authority we have a duty to provide the best possible public services.
- Our ability to provide quality local services would be significantly enhanced by the increased revenues from the government tackling tax dodging.
- All who benefit from public spending should contribute their fair share.
- The UK must take a lead role in creating a fairer tax system and combatting tax dodging.

This council resolves:

- To support the campaign for tax justice by supporting the motion:

“While many ordinary people face falling household income and rising costs of living, some multinational companies are avoiding billions of pounds of tax from a tax system that fails to make them pay their fair share. Local governments in developing countries and the UK alike would benefit from a fairer tax system where multinational companies pay their fair share, enabling authorities around the world to provide quality public services. The UK government must listen to the strength of public feeling and act to

end the injustice of tax dodging by large multinational companies, in developing countries and the UK.

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

The Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.56pm.