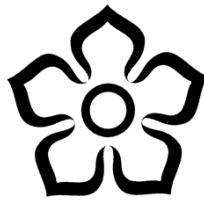


Thursday, 17 March 2016



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, 17 MARCH 2016 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 following meetings are available to view at:

a) 21 January 2016
<http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk:8071/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=81&MId=7049&Ver=4>

b) 24 February 2016
<http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk:8071/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=7050&x=1>

Copies are also available from Democratic Support on (0116) 454 6350 or committees@leicester.gov.uk

4. **STATEMENTS BY THE CITY MAYOR / EXECUTIVE**
5. **PETITIONS**
 - Presented by Members of the Public
 - Presented by Councillors
6. **QUESTIONS**
 - From Members of the Public
 - From Councillors
7. **MATTERS RESERVED TO FULL COUNCIL**
 - 7.1 Pay Policy Statement 2016 / 17.
 - 7.2 Independent Remuneration Panel Report

8. **EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES**

To note any changes to the Executive. To vary the composition and fill any vacancies of any Committee of Council.

9. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

10. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

Fire & Emergency Evacuation Procedure

- The Council Chamber Fire Exits are the two entrances either side of the top bench or under the balcony in the far left corner of the room.
- In the event of an emergency alarm sounding make your way to Town Hall Square and assemble on the far side of the fountain.
- Anyone who is unable to evacuate using stairs should speak to any of the Town Hall staff at the beginning of the meeting who will offer advice on evacuation arrangements.
- From the public gallery, exit via the way you came in, or via the Chamber as directed by Town Hall staff.

Filming and Recording the Meeting

The Council is committed to transparency and supports efforts to record and share reports of proceedings of public meetings through a variety of means, including social media. In accordance with government regulations and the Council's policy, persons and press attending any meeting of the Council open to the public (except Licensing Sub Committees and where the public have been formally excluded) are allowed to record and/or report all or part of that meeting. Details of the Council's policy are available at www.leicester.gov.uk or from Democratic Support.

If you intend to film or make an audio recording of a meeting you are asked to notify the relevant Democratic Support Officer in advance of the meeting to ensure that participants can be notified in advance and consideration given to practicalities such as allocating appropriate space in the public gallery etc.

The aim of the Regulations and of the Council's policy is to encourage public interest and engagement so in recording or reporting on proceedings members of the public are asked:

- ✓ to respect the right of others to view and hear debates without interruption;
- ✓ to ensure that the sound on any device is fully muted and intrusive lighting avoided;
- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed.

PRESENT:

TED CASSIDY, LORD MAYOR
CHAIRMAN

SIR PETER SOULSBY – CITY MAYOR

Abbey Ward

HARSHAD DAHYABHAI BHAVSAR
VIJAY SINGH RIYAIT

Aylestone Ward

ADAM CLARKE
NIGEL CARL PORTER

Beaumont Leys Ward

HEMANT RAE BHATIA
SUE WADDINGTON
PAUL THOMAS WESTLEY

Belgrave Ward

MANSUKLAL CHOCHAN
MANJULA SOOD

Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields

STEVE CORRALL
ELAINE HALFORD
KULWINDER SINGH JOHAL

Castle Ward

PATRICK JOSEPH KITTERICK
LYNN SENIOR

Evington Ward

DEEPAK BAJAJ
RATILAL BHAGWAN GOVIND
SUE HUNTER

Eyres Monsell Ward

VIRGINIA CLEAVER
RORY PALMER

North Evington Ward

LUIS FONSECA
JEAN KHOTE
ABDUL RAZAK OSMAN

Rushey Mead Ward

PIARA SINGH CLAIR
RITA PATEL
ROSS WILLMOTT

Saffron Ward

ELLY CUTKELVIN
WILLIAM SHELTON

Spinney Hills Ward

SHOFIQL ISLAM CHOWDHURY
MUSTAFA MALIK

Stoneygate Ward

LUCY CHAPLIN
KIRK MASTER
AMINUR THALUKDAR

Thurncourt Ward

TERESA ALDRED
PAUL NEWCOMBE

Troon Ward

DIANE CANK
BALJIT SINGH

Westcotes Ward

ANDY CONNELLY
SARAH RUSSELL

Fosse Ward

DAWN ALFONSO

Humberstone and Hamilton Ward

VI DEMPSTER
RASHMI JOSHI
GURINDER SINGH SANDHU

Knighton Ward

ROSS GRANT
INDERJIT SINGH GUGNANI
DR LYNN MOORE

Western Ward

DR SUSAN BARTON
GEORGE COLE
MALCOLM UNSWORTH

Wycliffe Ward

HANIF AQBANY
MOHAMMED DAWOOD

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Lord Mayor wished all the City's Irish friends and all in the City a happy St Patrick's Day.

The Lord Mayor welcomed Kieza Silveira De Sousa who was a former Young Mayor of Lewisham as his guest for the meeting. The Young Mayor in Lewisham is democratically elected every year through Lewisham's schools / colleges and serves a one year term. Kieza was elected ahead of 24 other candidates and as a Young Mayor was a spokesperson for young people's views. In addition, Kieza gave advice to the elected Mayor on issues relating to young people and oversaw a budget, amongst other important tasks. Kieza is a Masters student at De Montfort University and runs his own design company.

The Lord Mayor was pleased to announce that the King Richard III Partnership had won a national tourism industry award for the events around the reinterment of King Richard III. The Partnership which comprised the City and County Councils, the University of Leicester and Leicester Cathedral had been awarded the bronze medal in the Tourism Experience Category of Visit England's Awards for Excellence 2016 for the six-day series of events. The Lord Mayor congratulated all of those involved in the Partnership and those who helped deliver the events on this well-deserved award.

The Lord Mayor asked all present to note the evacuation procedures detailed on the Agenda for the meeting. He asked anyone with any queries to speak to one of the Town Hall staff who would be happy to assist.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No declarations were made.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

31. That the minutes of the meetings of Council held on 21 January and 24 February 2016, copies having been circulated to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and that they be approved as a correct record.

STATEMENTS BY THE CITY MAYOR/EXECUTIVE

The City Mayor reminded Members of the summary of issues and options received from the Monitoring Officer regarding a legal challenge that had been made following the approval by Council on 13th November 2014 Council of the following motion:

Preamble

Leicester is a City renowned for its tolerance, diversity, unity and its strong stance against all forms of discrimination, this position enables different communities to live together. It is also important when there is oppression and injustices, that Leicester City Council takes up a position to support communities experiencing such inequalities and in this instance it is the plight of the Palestinian people, which is why the following resolution is being moved.

The Motion

Leicester City Council recognises the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace and free from incursion, but condemns the Government of Israel for its continuing illegal occupation of Palestine's East Jerusalem and the West Bank; for its continuing blockade of Gaza; and the illegal appropriation of land in the West Bank and settlement buildings.

The Council welcomes the decision of the United Nations on 29 November 2012 to recognise Palestine "non-member observer State", but for the people of Palestine the suffering since 1967 continues. The Council also welcomes UK Parliament's vote on 13th October 2014 to recognise Palestinian Statehood even though the United Kingdom Government fails to do so. It is with regret we note the Government of Israel continues to ignore and breach International Law, Geneva Convention and UN Resolutions and continues with its occupation of Palestinian territories.

Therefore, Leicester City Council resolves, insofar as legal considerations allow, to boycott any produce originating from illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank until such time as it complies with international law and withdraws from Palestinian Occupied territories. Furthermore, Leicester City Council continues its example of good community relationships by developing a sustainable city, promoting harmony and respect for all people to live in a neighbourly way.

The City Mayor noted that he had received representations from a large range of individuals both for and against the motion including Arthur Goodman of Jews for Justice for Palestinians and the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Jonathon Arkush. The City Mayor further stated that the motion had been represented by some as anti-Semitic or as a boycott of Israel which was not the case but had been an attempt to draw attention to an issue which had direct resonance in the City and was the subject of significant international debate.

The City Mayor noted that the Monitoring Officer had outlined the legal position and that costs could be as high as £200,000 in addition to the Council's own legal costs should the court rule against the Council. The City Mayor noted that in order to mitigate the risk the Council could choose to rescind the decision which may have the effect of encouraging the claimant to withdraw the claim or allow the Council's legal representatives to invite the Court to treat the claim as 'academic'. Should Members wish to take this route it was open to any 5 Members of the Council to request the Lord Mayor to call a special Council meeting which could further consider the resolution and whether to rescind. The City Mayor noted that the hearing was currently scheduled for 4 May 2016 so any such meeting would need to be called within the next few weeks. In summary the City Mayor noted that it fell to the Council and its Members whether to choose to call a special meeting to consider whether to rescind in order to potentially mitigate the financial risk or to defend the position taken.

PETITIONS

None received.

QUESTIONS

Lord Mayor: The next item is questions from Councillors. It has been agreed that the first four questions will receive a combined response. Councillor Singh your questions please.

Councillor Singh: Thank you my Lord Mayor. The questions are "Would the Deputy Mayor inform the Council of the number of junior doctors that were absent from the Leicester hospitals, this being the Leicester General, the LRI and the Leicester Glenfield during the last official BMA strike? And I will just paraphrase question 2 which is to elicit factual information. "How many planned operations were cancelled?" Question 3 "How many out-patient appointments were cancelled?" Question 4 "How long will it take for the backlog of the appointments and operations to be cleared?" Thank you.

Lord Mayor: Thank you Councillor Singh. Deputy City Mayor.

Deputy City Mayor: Thank you my Lord Mayor. The first day of the last or the most recent BMA junior doctor's strike, the 9th March, saw 168 junior doctors take industrial action at UHL across the UHL sites and on the second day 189. At LPT that figure was 33 and 36 respectively. To move on to the second question, the first part of my answer relates to UHL – across the two days 750 out-patient appointments were cancelled, 9 in-patient operations were cancelled, and 38 day case procedures were cancelled and 14 clinics across LPT's areas of work were also cancelled. UHL had obviously planned in advance for the industrial action and told me there was no significant backlog to clear and that patients had all been given new slots for appointments and scheduled procedures, and likewise at LPT they had a target to return to business as usual within two days of the industrial action, and I believe that to have been the case. I want to be absolutely clear my Lord Mayor in merely reporting those figures I have every sympathy with the action of the junior doctors who were striking. That is not a decision they arrived at lightly and I think it is symptomatic of the crisis we see across the NHS at the moment.

Lord Mayor: Thank you Deputy City Mayor. Councillor Singh have you a supplementary question?

Councillor Singh: Yes my Lord Mayor I do. In actual fact I think the sentiments the Deputy Mayor has expressed are in that line. Will the Deputy Mayor agree and make appropriate representations in his capacity that the government should acknowledge the present situation that it needs an early resolution to the mutual satisfaction of both the medical profession and the associated staff who are crucial to the NHS, and most importantly to recognise the need to safeguard services vital to the health and well-being of the people of this City.

Lord Mayor: Thank you Councillor Singh. Deputy City Mayor.

Deputy City Mayor: Thank you my Lord Mayor. I will certainly make such representations, I am on record as saying that negotiations need to recommence with the NHS employers and the government coming to the table in good faith and recognising the extreme pressure that doctors in secondary care and indeed primary care are facing at the moment. The current government told us the NHS would be safe in their hands. People were witnessing doctors becoming exhausted and ever more stretched, witnessing picket lines at our hospitals, witnessing patients struggling to get GP appointments week in week out across the City and

indeed in other parts of the country will arrive at their own judgment whether that was a promise that David Cameron and Jeremy Hunt have kept.

Lord Mayor: Thank you Deputy City Mayor. Councillor Chaplin.

Councillor Chaplin: Thank you my Lord Mayor. Could I have an update on the implementation plans for the child audiology service?

Lord Mayor: Councillor Russell.

Councillor Russell: Thank you my Lord Mayor. Children's paediatric audiology has moved from Education to Health due to new guidelines that were brought in around the best support for children's audiology. The clinic here at New Parks House ceased in July 2015 and all paediatric audiology moved to Health in a variety of venues across the City including the Leicester Royal Infirmary. Those venues now do all our hearing assessments, hearing aid fitting and reviews and all City children are seen at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. Thank you my Lord Mayor.

Lord Mayor: Thank you Councillor Russell. Councillor Chaplin have you a supplementary question?

Councillor Chaplin: No Lord Mayor.

Lord Mayor: Thank you. Councillor Chaplin your second question please?

Councillor Chaplin: Thank you my Lord Mayor. What measures are being taken in the City to help combat the recent increase in cases of childhood scarlet fever?

Lord Mayor: Councillor Osman.

Councillor Osman: Thank you my Lord Mayor. There has been a national increase in terms of scarlet fever over the last three years and this has widely been reported locally and nationally. In the last 12 weeks 12 cases have been announced to Public Health England and a total of 68 cases across the whole of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. We are now at the peak time of the year in terms of the illness in this case. 80% of the cases are children under the age of 10 and there is no vaccination for this. Although this used to be a serious condition it can now easily be managed with antibiotics and Public Health England do provide advice to all GPs as well as issuing guidance to schools of how to manage any cases of any outbreaks, and Public Health England's advice is that parents and carers are to keep children away from nursery or school for at least 24 hours after starting the treatment with antibiotics and simple measures such as effective handwashing can also reduce the illness from spreading.

Lord Mayor: Thank you Councillor Osman. Councillor Chaplin have you a supplementary question?

Councillor Chaplin: Thank you my Lord Mayor. More specifically Councillor Osman would he be able to say what the Council is doing in terms of making sure those messages and communications are getting out particularly to parents with young children.

Lord Mayor: Councillor Osman.

Councillor Osman: Yes, with the help of Public Health England we do advise

schools in terms of the guidance measures that have been taken and that has been provided to all schools and nurseries as well.

Lord Mayor: Thank you. Councillor Grant.

Councillor Grant: How important does the City Mayor consider it that Elected Members, when carrying out their statutory duties, are given accurate expert opinion by officers that support them?

Lord Mayor: City Mayor.

City Mayor: Thank you my Lord Mayor. I hope Councillor Grant would not be surprised to know that I think it is vitally important that Members get the best quality advice and if there are occasions when Councillor Grant feels that the officers have fallen below the standard we would expect of them I would be very interested to hear of them and will do my best to ensure with the Chief Operating Officer that they are dealt with appropriately.

Lord Mayor: Councillor Grant, have you a supplementary question?

Councillor Grant: Yes Lord Mayor. I will be raising a specific issue but I would be interested in what his opinion would be of a senior officer giving untrue information to a statutory committee.

Lord Mayor: City Mayor.

City Mayor: My Lord Mayor if Councillor Grant is aware of a senior officer of this Council being untruthful in their advice I would expect him to have immediately brought it to the attention of the Monitoring Officer and to the Chief Operating Officer and to me. As yet he has not done so.

Lord Mayor: Thank you City Mayor. Councillor Grant your second question please?

Councillor Grant: Yes I will do so after the meeting Lord Mayor.

Experience of the process to consider the planning application to develop the Gables Hotel site on London Road highlights failings in the planning and highways functions, how these functions interact, how input from highways is reported both in written reports and to Committee members. What can be done to ensure that information that is not relevant to the issue being discussed are either not represented at all, or worse are then put forward as an expert opinion in a way that may undermine the Council's case at a later date?

Lord Mayor: City Mayor.

City Mayor: My Lord Mayor as Councillor Grant knows I don't sit on the Planning Committee and indeed it would not be appropriate for a City Mayor to do so. There is a clear separation of responsibilities in this matter. I am not aware of the circumstances to which he refers. Again he has not brought them to my attention as far as I know although it maybe he has done so without my knowledge. But as far as I know he has not brought it to the attention of the appropriate officers either. Were he to bring them to my attention, although as I say I cannot get involved in the details of the planning case itself, I can as I have said earlier on seek to ensure, as I would wish to ensure, that the quality of advice is consistent and of the highest

quality.

Lord Mayor: Thank you. Councillor Grant have you a supplementary question?

Councillor Grant: Yes Lord Mayor. To give some context on this particular issue many, many objections raised by myself and residents around concerns about highways. The initial written report put out by officers did not include even the fact that they consulted with our own highways people. In trying to raise that with the senior planning officer it was implied to me that that was improper for me to even do so. So it is a very difficult situation it seems for members to be working on. But in dealing with this particular issue it came out that highways officers don't do any work to test the reports of developers that are put in on highways issues and this was stated to Members and it was even quoted that why would they question their professional colleagues who are working for the developers. And specifically they then put in at a later date information which actually was totally irrelevant, actually misleading to officers. So this particular case has now gone to appeal and I would ask the City Mayor if he could ensure that officers work so that any information that is put forward to the Inspector for the appeal is actually relevant and not misleading and this is particularly in relation to cycling patterns of students coming from the University of Leicester residences in Oadby travelling past this location and the fact that officers have put forward data which is actually massively under-representing that traffic flow.

Lord Mayor: City Mayor.

City Mayor: My Lord Mayor as I have said I am not aware of the circumstances of this particular issue. I would, however, say and Councillor Grant has heard me say this on previous occasions that I do feel that Ward Councillors in the sort of circumstances talked about have a proper job to do on behalf of their constituents, and while that may sometimes challenge the professional judgment of officers it is quite right they should do so. I mean that is part of having an elected representative representing their constituents and representing their concerns. If Councillor Grant feels that his concerns and the one expressed on behalf of his constituents have not been properly listened to on this occasion I would be very interested to hear about that and would obviously want to make sure that officers understood it. I would say though that certainly my experience of the way in which our Council officers respond to what is said by and on behalf of applicants in planning cases is, how can I put it, generally appropriately sceptical and that is part of their job. You know they don't just accept what an applicant says to them. But I would be very pleased to discuss with Councillor Grant the specific concerns about this one and to make sure as I said earlier that the highest standards of professional integrity and impartial advice have been upheld.

Lord Mayor: Thank you City Mayor. Councillor Grant your third question please.

Councillor Grant: Has anyone informed the planning department of the substantial efforts to brand Leicester as an historic City?

Lord Mayor: City Mayor.

City Mayor: My Lord Mayor I would be interested to see what the supplementary is on this one. But I have to say that it is certainly my experience that officers of the Council, particularly the planning officers and those involved in the development of the City, don't need much reminding, certainly not nowadays of the importance of Leicester's 2,000 years of recorded history, and the importance of the historic built

environment that we have inherited from those 2,000 years. So I frankly just don't think that they need very much encouragement to be aware of the importance of this historic City and the need for them to be mindful of that in the way in which they perform their duties.

Lord Mayor: Thank you City Mayor. Councillor Grant do you have a supplementary question?

Councillor Grant: I do Lord Mayor. Yes this relates to an application which is within half a mile I suspect of the sign on London Road which announces Leicester to those coming in from the south of the City as an historic City. I welcome what the City Mayor said in relation to my last question that he believes that Councillors have a job to do on behalf of their constituents, and I believe that actually members from all parties those representing their constituents and those on the Committee are trying to do a job but I must admit I don't believe that actually the officers are acting very well in actually challenging the developers. One of the reasons is they are not having to do it in the Committee. We found out after the case of an application on Elms Road which has impact on one of the City's few grade II listed buildings, that the applicant had been advised by officers that the concrete roofing tiles were acceptable and that actually it was the officers who were arguing in the meeting that the concrete roofing tiles had to stay in place and if the officers had asked in advance for exactly the tiles that members of the Committee wanted to be put on as a condition, then that would have been done. So I would actually ask him to ask those people responsible for the Planning Department to check and to urge them that in cases where we are talking about protecting our historic City they do their job properly and actually don't encourage developers to do things which actually you know aren't required and which are detrimental to the area.

Lord Mayor: Thank you. City Mayor.

City Mayor: Thank you Lord Mayor. Yet again obviously I am not familiar with the particular case. I do know that the numbers of applications that are dealt with by officers relating to conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeology and so on in the last 12 months alone is some 500 and to the best of my knowledge the overwhelming majority of those are dealt with in a way that is very much to the satisfaction of members of the Planning Committee and indeed for the Ward Councillors where those 500 buildings are located. I would remind Councillor Grant again if there are particular concerns about this one to contact me, to contact the officers concerned, I would be pleased to take up those concerns as I would do for any member of the Council and to see whether there are lessons to be learnt from the way in which it was handled. But as I say I am not aware of the circumstances so I can't really comment any further.

Lord Mayor: Thank you City Mayor. Councillor Grant your fourth question please.

Councillor Grant: Thank you Lord Mayor. Given the overwhelming response of the public against the proposals for permit parking in Clarendon Park, can the City Mayor tell Council how the authority ended up working on a scheme with such limited public support and tell us how much money was spent developing the scheme and carrying out the consultation?

Lord Mayor: Thank you. City Mayor.

City Mayor: My Lord Mayor in response to an earlier question from Councillor Grant I spoke about the importance of Elected Members representing the people of

their area. I would add to that that it is important that they carry out and implement in so far as they are able their manifesto commitments, and this was very clearly something that the electorate in that area had put to them by the Councillors that they elected during the election period, and I think it was only appropriate and right and the duty of the Councillors to subsequently press the Council to explore the issue in the way that they had undertaken to do, and to put it to those residents whether as so many people in the area were asking for the majority actually wanted a residents parking system. Now as it happens the result of that was that the majority said they did not want it which is unlike the response we have had in other parts of the City where I think it was in Westcotes most recently residents voted 75% in favour to keep the scheme in their area. So I think it was a reasonable expectation that the Ward Councillors would carry out their election pledges, that we would subsequently ask residents and that we would respond to what the residents said to us. Now Councillor Grant specifically asked for the cost of the exercise. I will read the note I've got. The vast majority of the work was done using existing resources and staff which involved no extra expense, other than the obvious costs associated with that, but you know people weren't taken on especially to do the work. And the cost of the traffic surveys was £7,600. It seems to me my Lord Mayor that in an area where there very clearly are parking problems - I don't think anybody is disputing that - it was appropriate for the Ward Councillor to press as they did and for the people to be asked as they were whether they thought that a solution that has been applied very successfully in other parts of the City was right for them. They said no it wasn't and a clear undertaking has been given that we won't return to ask them that question again in the near future. But it is quite right as part of the democratic process that they were asked and we listened to what they said.

Lord Mayor: Thank you City Mayor. Councillor Grant have you a supplementary question?

Councillor Grant: Yes just in relation to the last point the City Mayor says we won't come back to review this in the near future – what would be the minimum amount of time that he thinks it would be appropriate before this was reconsidered.

Lord Mayor: City Mayor.

City Mayor: My Lord Mayor I think that Ward Councillors actually have suggested that 7 years – I'm seeing some nods from at least one of the Ward Councillors there – is an appropriate period. I think that is a very reasonable commitment for them to have given to their electorate and is one that I would entirely endorse.

Lord Mayor: Next question Councillor Porter.

Councillor Porter: Yes thank you Lord Mayor. I am not slacking with just two questions tonight, I did have another one but the Council wouldn't let me submit it so yes it is a shame really. It would have been nice to get an answer to it but who knows. Anyway my question is Can the Council list the sites allocated for housing in the local plan?

Lord Mayor: City Mayor.

City Mayor: My Lord Mayor the list of sites allocated for potential housing development in the City is lengthy in the extreme and I don't think Members, I hope Councillor Porter would agree, would thank me for actually listing them all this evening. It is perhaps just worth saying that they are available in the public domain

and they include local policies on site allocations formally saved from the 2006 Local Plan together with strategic planning policy adopted in the course of 2010 and policy advice from 2014. They are on our website apparently.

Lord Mayor: Thank you City Mayor. Councillor Porter have you a supplementary question?

Councillor Porter: Yes I have Lord Mayor. I don't understand how 11 sites can be considered to be lengthy but obviously that is what he has said. Maybe he needs to go and have another look at the Local Plan because there has been quite a lot of misleading information recently including misleading information from one of his team who have been telling residents in Aylestone that a green field site which is in Aylestone has been allocated for housing in the Local Plan and it clearly has not. There is no site in Aylestone that is allocated for housing in the Local Plan and the principle of development has not been accepted on any site in Aylestone which is in the Local Plan. So my question to the City Mayor is can the Council please work in accordance with the Local Plan, this is obviously a Local Plan which is developed after a major public consultation and is scrutinised by an independent inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. So can the Council please work in accordance with the Local Plan and consult with residents as it says in the Local Plan about this particular site in Aylestone about the detailed options for this particular piece of land which is not allocated for housing and then that site after public consultation has taken place should go into the new Local Plan. So what we are asking is can the Council please stick to the existing Local Plan and consult with residents.

Lord Mayor: Thank you Councillor Porter. City Mayor.

City Mayor: My Lord Mayor Councillor Porter has not actually identified which particular site he is talking about and I can just tell him I had not actually checked in advance quite how many sites there are across the City that are allocated for housing, but I can assure him categorically it is not a mere 11. It is many, many times that figure. What I was going to suggest to Councillor Porter was that he probably misunderstands the Local Plan process and I think he is under the misapprehension that everything is put on hold during the period when a new Local Plan is being developed. That is not the case, it is not the case in Leicester and it could not be the case in any City. Development must continue and vital housing must be provided and I make no apology whatsoever for our commitment to seek to meet the growing housing needs of this City by ensuring that new houses are provided and roofs are provided over the heads of families.

Lord Mayor: Councillor Porter your second question please?.

Councillor Porter: Thank you Lord Mayor. How many Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission meetings were held in 2015?

Lord Mayor: City Mayor.

City Mayor: I have to say my Lord Mayor that this is one of the strangest questions I have had in a long time since it is something that is so readily ascertained on the public record. You just have to look at the Council's website and see the list of meetings that have been held. But I did do just such a check in response to this question and discovered that there were five formal meetings of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission held in 2015.

Lord Mayor: Thank you City Mayor. Councillor Porter have you a supplementary

question?

Councillor Porter: Yes thank you and thank the City Mayor obviously for clarifying that because I understand if there were five meetings and we have a Chair who is on £7,761 a year and obviously a Vice-chair at £3,880, at five meetings that is a Chair at £1,552 per meeting and the Vice chair at £776 per meeting. Which I think is an incredible amount of money most people would think for just short meetings and in fact Lord Mayor on the 4th August 2015 they held a meeting which lasted just an hour, just slightly over an hour. So that is what we have is a Chair no other scrutiny meetings at all during the period of that year on around £1,500 for an hour's meeting and a Vice-chair on over £700 for an hour's meeting. I think that is incredible, absolutely incredible. These levels of pay for very little work I would say is scandalous. The Mayor has full time Assistants we are told so can Sir Peter tell us how many of his full time Assistants, these Assistant Mayors, actually turn up to work before 11 o'clock in the morning and do a full time job.

Lord Mayor: Thank you Councillor Porter. City Mayor.

City Mayor: My Lord Mayor that was a very wide ranging supplementary. I mean the fact which makes it utterly bizarre, then again so many of Councillor Porter's questions are bizarre, that he picked on the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission because actually the numbers of times it has met is very similar to the numbers of times that the other Scrutiny Commissions have met. My point of course is that the work of those Scrutiny Commissions is of course importantly done at its actual meetings, but is also done in the days and the weeks between meetings. Scrutiny is not something that just happens you know five times a year at a meeting, it is something that requires a tremendous amount of background work, a tremendous amount of commitment, a tremendous amount of reading, a tremendous amount of talking, an incredible number of other meetings informally held which are all part of the duties that we expect of those that take on the very substantial role of chairing a Scrutiny Commission. I would say that, and I was going to make a joke about arriving late and leaving early, but perhaps I won't make it. I will leave my response at that.

Lord Mayor: Thank you City Mayor.

MATTERS RESERVED TO COUNCIL

7.1 Pay Policy Statement 2016/17

A report of the Director of Delivery, Communications and Political Governance was considered which gave details of the Pay Policy Statement. The publication of a Statement was required by the Localism Act 2011 and must be approved by full Council by 1 April each year.

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

32. That the Pay Policy Statement for 2016/17 be approved.

7.2 Independent Remuneration Panel Report

A report of the Director of Delivery, Communications and Political Governance was considered which gave details of the content and recommendation of the final report

of the Independent Remuneration Panel. The full report of the Panel was included with the report as an appendix together with the proposed draft of the 2015/16 Members Allowances Scheme. It was noted that an email address had been made available for the receipt of public comments with the comments received made available at the meeting (and attached to these minutes).

Moved by Councillor Westley, seconded by Councillor Kitterick and carried:

33. That Council:

- (1) note and adopt the content and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel's Report on Members' Allowances;
- (2) agree the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2015/16 (attached as a draft to the Council report) and the indexation of allowances as specified in the Independent Remuneration Panel's report to 2019/20; and
- (3) agree that the provisions of the revised Members Allowances Scheme for 2015/16 be implemented from 1 April 2016.

EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES

None identified.

NOTICES OF MOTION

None identified.

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None identified.

The City Mayor noted that this was the last ordinary meeting of the current municipal year and, on behalf of the Chamber, thanked the Lord Mayor for chairing Council meetings with even handedness, good grace and humour.

The Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed at 6pm.

Summary of Comments received via the email address allowances.review@leicester.gov.uk

As at 5pm on 16 March when the deadline for comments closed 2 responses had been received:

Comment 1

“Having read the proposed pay increase for the Mayor and assistant mayor's etc, it's in my opinion that the proposals are rejected! It's not right they get payrise' of any form when many families in and around Leicester and the country for that matter are struggling to make ends meet, and are struggling financially altogether it's not right and well, it's an outrage that it's even being considered!”
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Comment 2

“I have read in the Leicester Mercury about the City Council politicians getting a pay rise. I work for the Prison Service and have not had a rise for years. Further more when we are cutting services and asking people to volunteer to run libraries as we have to cut, is it not a slap in the face for people to see Council members getting more pay. It seems that the increase in Council Tax should be going into providing services, not going into the back pockets of Council members. Council members got into Council to make a difference to the city, not to line their own pockets. Typical MP stance, we are all in it together, but I will make sure I make something out of it.”
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Respondents to the email address received the following reply:

“Thank you for your email to allowances.review@leicester.gov.uk

You will receive no further response to your message but all comments received via this email address will be collated and reported to the Council meeting which considers the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and makes a decision.”