



Leicester  
City Council

Minute Extract

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
CABINET

Held: MONDAY, 11 JULY 2005 at 5.00pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor R Blackmore - Chair  
Councillor Scuplak - Vice-Chair

Councillor Coley	Councillor Gill
Councillor Farmer	Councillor Metcalfe
Councillor Grant	Councillor Mugglestone
Councillor Suleman	

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**54. LIFELONG LEARNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - BALANCING THE BUDGET**

Councillor Suleman submitted a report making recommendations to balance the budget of the Education Department in 2005/06, and recommended a strategy for balancing the budget in future years. The relevant minute extract from the Education and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee held on 7 July 2005, together with information on the consultation responses received had also been circulated.

Councillor Suleman stated that consultation had taken place across the City with key partners on the 42 proposals which were originally put forward for consideration. It was reported that the recommendations being proposed would have limited impact on frontline services and jobs and would not affect the ability of the department to deliver Learning and Skills Council targets, although this would be monitored.

Councillor Suleman also reported that any underspends in the department would be looked at to restore the funding originally allocated to support capital expenditure in primary schools. Funding for Key Stage 2 would be reprieved, and could be spent. Any funding would be used to raise standards in primary schools generally rather than key stage 2 specifically.

**RESOLVED:**

That Cabinet approve the following and ask Council to approve

those recommendations which are outside Cabinet's delegated responsibility:

- (1) that the list of savings identified in appendix 1 of the supporting information be approved, apart from the cessation of the sports and fitness provision subject to:
  - (i) receiving a further report on the application of consistent charging policies for crèches and playgroups, and;
  - (ii) continued monitoring, and if necessary remedial action, by the Department to secure the delivery of key Learning and Skills Council targets.
- (2) that the remaining £1million of savings be sought through the implementation of reviews across the Council as part of the implementation of new departments (such reviews also to consider the most appropriate senior management configurations), and the response to the changed priorities of the Learning and Skills Council,
- (3) that the posts of Premises Facility Manager, Senior Adult Learning Co-ordinator, 3 Curriculum Leaders, Sports Curriculum Leader and the Quality Assurance Officer be frozen, pending proposals arising from (2) above,
- (4) that the deputy Chief Executive be requested to work with 6 'out of school clubs' to submit standard fund applications, with a view to funding this activity from standards fund monies in the future if this is possible as is the case for such activity at other schools (any savings arising contributing to the outstanding funding gap),
- (5) that up to £700,000 of the Education and Lifelong Learning Department's earmarked reserves be used to bridge the budget gap in 2005/06 after allowing for any reserves needed to deal with other budget pressures in the department,
- (6) that £1.1million of monies for investment in primary school Key Stage 2 development (which has been frozen since March) be released to be spent over the next two years, to raise standards in primary schools developed in consultation with Heads and linked to the Strategy for Learning and the Collaborative Network,
- (7) that £0.25 million of monies previously held for investment in primary school capital be released, and the remaining £1 million be set aside to bridge the savings needed in the Lifelong Learning Division, and that it be considered at

outturn whether further funding can be released for primary school capital from Education underspends, and that work be done with the Schools' Forum to seek to supplement this with unallocated monies in the schools' block,

- (8) that it be noted that some issues will need to be addressed in the Division that would otherwise have been addressed via the Recovery Plan (some of the options for instance secured savings in circumstances where the status quo was not sustainable, and decisions will still be required). These issues will, however, be taken without the expectation of a contribution to the budget,
- (9) that Officers be asked to put in place an action plan for these proposals to address any matters that are identified adversely in the equalities assessment process linked to these recommendations, and
- (10) that all related decisions be taken in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning.