

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY**13th September, 2005****PRESENT**

Lord Mayor (Councillor Lakha)

Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Ahmed)

Councillor Arrowsmith	Councillor Kelsey
Councillor Asif	Councillor Mrs. Lacy
Councillor Auluck	Councillor Mrs. Lancaster
Councillor Mrs. Basu	Councillor Lee
Councillor Batten	Councillor Mrs. Lucas
Councillor Bhyat	Councillor McNicholas
Councillor Mrs. Bigham	Councillor Mrs. Maskell
Councillor Blundell	Councillor Matchet
Councillor Charley	Councillor Mulhall
Councillor Chater	Councillor Mutton
Councillor Cliffe	Councillor Nellist
Councillor Clifford	Councillor H. Noonan
Councillor Crookes	Councillor M. Noonan
Councillor Mrs. Dixon	Councillor O'Neill
Councillor Duggins	Councillor Patton
Councillor Field	Councillor Miss Reece
Councillor Foster	Councillor Ridge
Councillor Gazey	Councillor Ridley
Councillor Mrs. Griffin	Councillor Ruddy
Councillor Mrs. Harper	Councillor Skipper
Councillor Harrison	Councillor Mrs. Stone
Councillor Ms. Hunter	Councillor Taylor
Councillor Mrs. Johnson	Councillor Townshend
Councillor Kelly	Councillor Williams

Apologies:-
 Councillor Benefield
 Councillor Ms. McKay
 Councillor Mrs. Rutter
 Councillor Sawdon

53. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th July, 2005, were signed as a true record, subject to the addition of Councillor Patton to the list of Members detailed in Minute 46, headed Declarations of Interest.

54. Mo Mowlam

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death of Mo Mowlam. Mo was a Coventry girl who grew up in Styvechale and was a former Head Girl of Coundon Court School. She went on to become a leading politician and was granted the Honorary Freedom of the City with a special ceremony in November 1999.

Members noted that a letter of condolence had been sent on behalf of the City Council to her family.

55. Professor John Tomlinson

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death of Professor Tomlinson who was a co-opted member of the Education Committee, representing Warwick University, from 1986 to 1989.

Members noted that a letter of condolence would be sent on behalf of the City Council to his family.

56. Noel Cantwell

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death of Noel Cantwell, who was a former manager of Coventry City Football Club, between 1967 and 1972.

Members noted that a letter of condolence would be sent on behalf of the City Council to his family.

57. Hurricane Katrina

The Lord Mayor referred to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in the states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama in America, and Members noted that he had written to His Excellency the American Ambassador in London expressing the City Council's condolences for those who lost their lives and the City Council's thoughts to the thousands whose homes and livelihoods had been destroyed.

58. Monsoon in Mumbai, India

The Lord Mayor referred to the tragedy and the loss of so many lives from the monsoon in India and reported that he had already written on behalf of the City Council to His Excellency the High Commissioner for India expressing the City Council's condolences and sharing in their sorrow.

59. Stampede in Iraq

The Lord Mayor referred to the tragedy and the loss of so many lives from the stampede in the Holy City of Al-Kadhimiya last month and reported that he had already written on behalf of the City Council to the Iraqi Ambassador to the United Kingdom, expressing the City Council's condolences and sharing in their sorrow.

60. Minutes' Silence

The Lord Mayor led a minutes' silence in memory of all those detailed above who had lost their lives.

61. Sporting Achievements

The Lord Mayor referred to a number of sporting achievements which involved citizens of Coventry.

62. **Petitions**

RESOLVED that the following petitions be referred to the appropriate City Council body/external organisation:-

- (a) **Proffitt Avenue Residents' Petition** – 125 signatures presented by Councillor Duggins.
- (b) **Anti-Social Behaviour – Pembury Avenue** – 9 signatures presented by Councillor Mrs. Stone.
- (c) **Foxford Grange Estate** – 29 signatures presented by Councillor Mrs. Stone.
- (d) **Proposed Hot Food Take Away on Dawlish Drive** – 100 signatures presented by Councillor Taylor.
- (e) **Traffic Problems in Tile Hill Village** – 153 signatures presented by Councillor Mrs. Lacy.
- (f) **Traffic Calming Scheme at the Junction of Brick Hill Lane and the A45** – 6 signatures presented by Councillor Gazey.
- (g) **Proposed Extension of Opening Hours at 188 Ansty Road, Wyken, Coventry** – 77 signatures presented by Councillor M. Noonan.
- (h) **Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage in the Coundon Area** – 26 signatures presented by Councillor Patton.
- (i) **Longford Road Shops – Widening of Pavements** – 57 signatures presented by Councillor Mrs. Stone.
(Note: Petition withdrawn pending the outcome of consultations between the City Council and shop owners)
- (j) **Flats by Swanswell Pool** - 23 signatures presented by Councillor Nellist.
- (k) **Lythalls Lane Wood Yard** - 154 signatures presented by Councillor Mrs. Lucas.
- (l) **Shuna Croft/Mansfield Avenue Footpath** - 74 signatures presented by Councillor Patton.
- (m) **Alleyway – Letchlade Close, Henley Ward** - 38 signatures presented by Councillor Patton.

63. **Declarations of Interest**

The following Members declared interests in the matters referred to in the minute indicated. The relevant minutes recording the decisions also record, where appropriate, the actions that the Members decided to take at the meeting indicated, having regard to the National Code of Government Conduct and to the City Council's Constitution:-

Interests in Debates

Personal

Member	Minute Number
Councillor Foster	64 (Whitley Abbey School)
Councillor Nellist	68

The following Members were granted dispensations by the Standards Committee on 14th April, 2005, to speak and vote at meetings on the Arena Development:-

Prejudicial

Member	Minute Number
Councillor Chater	68
Councillor Cliffe	68
Councillor Duggins	68
Councillor Foster	68
Councillor Mrs. Lucas	68
Councillor Mutton	68
Councillor Ridley	68
Councillor Sawdon	68
Councillor Skipper	68
Councillor Mrs. Stone	68

- (NOTES: (1) Councillor Chater indicated that he was no longer a season ticket holder.
- (2) Councillor Nellist indicated that he had attended the first match at the Ricoh Arena as a guest of Coventry City Football Club and had donated the cost to the strike fund.)

64. Question Time

The appropriate Members answered all the questions set out in the Questions Booklet, together with the supplementary questions put to them at the meeting.

The following Members answered all the questions put to them by other Members as set out below, together with supplementary questions on the same matters:-

Question Asked By	Question Put To	Subject Matter
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Councillor Chater	Councillor O'Neill	Employment of People with Disabilities
Councillor Gazey	Councillor Matchet	Reduction in Fire Cover by West Midlands Fire Services
Councillor Chater	Councillor Matchet	Monitoring process in West Midlands Fire Service
Councillor Mrs. Stone	Councillor Matchet	Regional Control of Fire Service
Councillor Clifford	Councillor Matchet	Meeting with West Midlands Fire Service
Councillor Mutton	Councillor Matchet	West Midlands Fire Service Seminars
Councillor Townshend	Councillor Foster	Manufacture and costs of road signs
Councillor Kelly	Councillor Foster	Signs advertising road works in Deedmore Road
Councillor Mrs. Johnson	Councillor Ridley	PFI bid Coventry Sports Centre
Councillor Mutton	Councillor Ridley	Listing of Coventry Sports Centre
Councillor Skipper	Councillor Ridley	Listing of Coventry Sports Centre
Councillor Nellist	Councillor Taylor	Number of Cabinet/Cabinet Members Meetings cancelled
Councillor Chater	Councillor Ridley	Review of how ICT classes delivered in Adult Education
Councillor Chater	Councillor O'Neill	Debt recovery policy
Councillor Nellist	Councillor O'Neill	Debt recovery policy
Councillor Chater	Councillor Taylor	Cabinet/Scrutiny process
Councillor McNicholas	Councillor Taylor	Chairs of Scrutiny Boards
Councillor Mrs. Basu	Councillor O'Neill	School clothing grants
Councillor Mutton	Councillor O'Neill	School clothing grants
Councillor Field	Councillor O'Neill	School clothing grants
Councillor Miss Reece	Councillor Foster	Britain in Bloom
Councillor Townshend	Councillor Foster	Measures to address potential fuel crisis
Councillor Mrs. Bigham	Councillor Blundell	School clothing grants

Councillor Mutton	Councillor Taylor	Phoenix Drum Bugle Corps
Councillor Gazey	Councillor Taylor	Phoenix Drum Bugle Corps
Councillor Mutton	Councillor Taylor	Lord Mayor's Initiative for Freedom and Friendship Evening
Councillor Charley	Councillor Ridley	Success in Ashes Test
Councillor Chater	Councillor Foster	Use of Resources from sale of land at Whitley Abbey Community School
Councillor Skipper	Councillor Ridley	Coventry Bees success
Councillor Nellist	Councillor Blundell	GCSE/AS/A level success

64. **Internal Audit Function – Internal Audit Annual Report**

Further to Minute 7/05 of Scrutiny Board (1) (Policy and Governance, Finance, Area Co-ordination, Equalities and Corporate and Customer Services) (Audit Committee), the City Council considered a report of the Director of Finance and ICT which summarised the Council's internal audit activities for the period April 2004 to March 2005 against the agreed Internal Audit Plan for 2004/05. In addition, the report detailed the Internal Audit Manager's opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of Coventry City Council's Internal Control Environment for the Financial Year 2004/05.

The Board had noted that during 2004/05, two directorate based teams supplemented the Internal Audit Division's work. The Education and Libraries Service Audit Team was managed by the Education Finance Manager and reported retrospectively to the Cabinet Member (Children's Services) on each term's activities. Similarly, the City Services Auditor was line managed by the City Services Finance Manager. With effect from April 2005, the Internal Audit Function had been centralised under the management of the Internal Audit Manager.

In line with previous reports, information contained within the report was statistical rather than specific, because of the confidential nature of audit work. The report included a summary of performance of the Internal Audit Division for the period April 2004 to March 2005. The Board had noted that as at the end of March 2005, the Audit Team had completed 84% of its operational plan against a revised target of 92% (as agreed by the Board in February 2005). This had resulted in the team not completing its plan by March 2005 and it was noted that a number of issues needed to be considered when assessing the Division's performance.

The Board had noted that the Code of Practice for Internal Audit and Local Government in the UK 2003 stated that internal audit needed to develop and provide the Chief Executive with an objective evaluation of, and opinions on, the effectiveness of the Council's Risk Management, Control and Governance arrangements. It required that the Internal Audit Manager's opinion was to be a key element of the framework of assurance that the Chief Executive needed to inform the completion of the Annual Statement on Internal Control (SIC).

In view of the above, an internal audit strategy approved by Cabinet in April 2005, required that the Internal Audit Annual Report provided the following information:-

- An opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Coventry City Council's internal control environment.
- Disclosure of any qualifications to that opinion, together with a reason for the qualification.
- Present a summary of the audit work undertaken to formulate the opinion, including the reliance placed upon the work of other assurance bodies.
- Draw attention to Scrutiny Board (1) any issues particularly relevant to the preparation of the SIC.

The opinion was limited to the work carried out by the internal audit during the Financial Year 2004/05 on the effectiveness on the internal control environment of Coventry City Council. The Board had noted that on this basis, it was the opinion that reasonable assurance could be provided and that there was a generally sound system of internal control designed to meet the organisation's objectives.

The audit work throughout the year highlighted some weaknesses in the design or inconsistent application of controls which may put the achievement of particular objectives at risk although management assurance that the majority of the audit recommendations had been implemented through the year had enforced the opinion highlighted above. Based on the work carried out by Internal Audit in 2004/05, no qualifications exist to the opinion. Furthermore, the Internal Audit Manager had not identified any issues in audits during this period that in his opinion needed to be considered when the Council produces its SIC for 2004/05.

RESOLVED that the City Council:-

- (1) Note the 2004/05 performance against the 2004/05 Internal Audit Operational Plan.**
- (2) Note the opinion of the Internal Audit Manager on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of Coventry City Council's Internal Control Environment.**

65. Adult Education Service Three-Year Strategic Development Plan August 2005 to July 2008, Adult Education Services Self Assessment Report February 2005, and Adult Education Service Quality Development Plan March 2005

Further to Minute 75/05 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Director of Education and Libraries, which outlined the Adult Education Services Three-Year Development Plan August 2005 to July 2008, which was a revised and updated continuation of the Three-Year Strategic Development Plan August 2003 to July 2006. The report also outlined the Adult Education Services Self-Assessment Report and Quality Development Plan.

The Learning and Skills Council have funded adult and family education delivered by the Adult Education Service since April 2001. "Success for All" published in November 2002, set out the Government's agenda for reforming further education and training in England, and establishing a new framework for quality and success. It recognised the

need to reduce bureaucracy by limiting the number of plans which providers have to share with local learning and skills Councils. It calls for a new, more strategic relationship between local learning and skills councils and providers, where local learning and skills councils would take a more "hands off" approach, and a greater strategic overview. The idea was that new relationships would be developed, which move away from the purchaser/provider approach, reliant on contract management, to a more strategic arrangement, where local learning and skills councils work together with providers to plan provision. The main way of achieving this would be for providers (ie. further education colleges, work-based training providers and adult education services) to provide short, strategic three-year development plans, with key headline targets. This process is known as "plan-led funding".

The report submitted summarised the content, highlighted the key points of the three-year development plan and outlined the key headline targets. A full copy of the plan was also available in the Members Lounges.

There was currently a major Learning and Skills Council review of plus 16 funding – "Agenda for Change". It was still unclear what impact any recommendations from this review would have upon the future funding for adult education. It was anticipated that with an increased number of 16 to 19 year olds entering the system over the next three years, funding for adult education would be under pressure as the Learning and Skills Council had a legal duty to provide education for 16 to 19 year olds.

Funding for the plan in 2005/06 was allocated on a yearly basis with in-year and Annual Review to determine future funding based on performance and priorities. Funding for Coventry for 2005/06 was £7,536,076, while last year the Council received £7,398,175.

The Adult Education Service had significantly improved since it volunteered to be inspected in November 2001. The headline judgements from the Adult Learning Inspectorate inspection in March 2004 show that in 2004 76% of lessons observed were good or better compared with 63% in 2001. Leadership and management was found to be good in 2004 against satisfactory in 2001. Quality assurance and equality of opportunity had also improved to good in 2004. The self-assessment report grades all aspects of Leadership and Management and teaching and learning as good. This assessment had been shared and agreed with the Local Learning and Skills Council. The Adult Education Service sees continuous improvement of the key strategy to turn a good service into an excellent one.

Actions within the Quality Development Plan were determined by the Curriculum Development Groups responsible for each area of learning and the framework for the plan is determined by the Learning and Skills Council. The Cabinet had noted that funding to support the implementation of the actions in the Quality Development Plan comes from the Learning and Skills Council.

The Quality Development Plan, as well as hitting targets, also addresses the key challenges for Coventry LEA, which were detailed within the report.

Full copies of both the Self-Assessment Report and Quality Development Plan were also available in the Members' Lounges.

RESOLVED that the City Council:-

- (1) Approve the Adult Education Services Three-Year Development Plan August 2005 to July 2008 for submission to the Coventry and Warwickshire Learning and Skills Council.**
- (2) Approve the 2005 Self-Assessment Report and Quality Development Plan for submission to the Coventry and Warwickshire Learning and Skills Council.**

66. "Planning for Housing Provision" Consultation Paper

Further to Minute 88/05 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a joint report, which detailed the Council's proposed response to the Government's Consultation Paper on "Planning for Housing Provision". The Consultation Paper set out the Government's objectives for delivering a better supply of housing through the planning system.

The Consultation Paper, which was published in July 2005, proposed a new policy approach to the way housing provision was dealt with in development plans and followed the Barker Review of 2004. The paper would also be an important input to a new planning policy statement on planning for housing (PPS3), which would be consulted on in the Autumn.

The Government had also published a Consultation Draft on a new green belt direction and a new Circular on planning obligations, which was aimed at speeding up ways of dealing with planning obligations to support the delivery of development, including new housing. Details of the two consultation papers were detailed at Appendix 1 of the report submitted.

Appendix 2 of the report submitted, detailed a report to the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Sub-regional Forum, to which Council employees have contributed. It was proposed that this report be endorsed as the basis for a response to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on the consultation paper.

The report submitted further detailed the implications of the proposals contained within the consultation paper under the areas of regeneration, growth, housing market areas and greenbelt direction.

The Cabinet had noted that responses to the consultation paper were required by 9th September, 2005, and indicated that any further comments arising from the meeting of Council, scheduled for 13th September, 2005, would also be submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

RESOLVED that the City Council:-

- (1) Endorse the report being made to the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Forum.**
- (2) Endorse the City Council's specific concerns, which had been sent to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and other appropriate bodies.**

67. **Outside Bodies – Amendments to Appointments**

The City Council considered a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services which detailed proposals to amend the appointments to a series of outside bodies.

RESOLVED that the following amendments be approved:-

- (1) CovWise – Replace Bev Messenger with Stephen Pickering as the City Council officer representative on CovWise.**
- (2) Local Government Information Unit Management Committee – Replace Councillor Taylor with Councillor Asif as the City Council's representative and lead member responsible for reporting back.**
- (3) Coventry General Charities Trustees – Replace Mrs. Rosher with Councillor Harrison.**

68. **Debate – Ricoh Arena**

Councillor Mutton moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Duggins:-

"In view of the success of the Ricoh Arena this Council wishes to place on record its congratulations to those elected members who had the foresight to vote for the development to go ahead at the Special Council Meeting on 16th October, 2003.

The Council further recognises that the Ricoh Arena is a landmark development that the people of Coventry can be proud of and offers a major prospect for the regeneration of the north of the city – everything the advocates of the Arena predicted."

RESOLVED that the motion as set out above be adopted.

(NOTE: The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.)