

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY

16th January 2007

PRESENT

Lord Mayor (Councillor Ahmed)

Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Batten)

Councillor Adalat	Councillor Kelsey
Councillor Arrowsmith	Councillor Lakha
Councillor Asif	Councillor Mrs. Lancaster
Councillor Bains	Councillor Lee
Councillor Benefield	Councillor Mrs. Lucas
Councillor Mrs. Bigham	Councillor Maton
Councillor Blundell	Councillor McNicholas
Councillor Charley	Councillor Matchet
Councillor Chater	Councillor Mulhall
Councillor Cliffe	Councillor Mutton
Councillor Clifford	Councillor Nellist
Councillor Crookes	Councillor H. Noonan
Councillor Mrs. Dixon	Councillor M. Noonan
Councillor Duggins	Councillor O'Neill
Councillor Field	Councillor Patton
Councillor Foster	Councillor Ms. Reece
Councillor Gazey	Councillor Ridge
Councillor Mrs. Griffin	Councillor Sawdon
Councillor Mrs. Harper	Councillor Skipper
Councillor Harrison	Councillor Taylor
Councillor Harvard	Councillor Townshend
Councillor Ms. Hunter	Councillor Mrs. Waters
Councillor Mrs. Johnson	Councillor Williams
Councillor Kelly	Councillor Windsor

Apologies: Councillor McKay
Councillor Ridley
Councillor Rutter
Councillor Skinner

73. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th December, 2006, were signed as a true record.

74. New Year's Honours

The Lord Mayor referred to the following awards made to Coventry citizens in the New Year's Honours List:-

Knighthood to Professor Howard Dalton based at the University of Warwick for his services to UK Science.

OBE to Professor Muhammad Anwar based at the University of Warwick for his services to higher education.

OBE to Dr Rowena Tye for her charitable fundraising work for Water Aid.

MBE to Paul Fletcher, Managing Director of Coventry City Football Club, for his services to football especially for the development of football stadiums in the UK including the RICOH.

MBE to Mrs Jenny Hocking based at the University of Warwick for her services to higher education.

Members noted that letters of congratulations had already been sent out on behalf of the City Council to all recipients.

75. Death of Former Coventry MP, John Butcher

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent sad death of the former MP for Coventry South West, John Butcher on Christmas Day. He was a Conservative MP between 1979 and 1997 until boundary changes removed his seat.

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

76. Death of Councillor Ridley's Mother

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent sad and sudden death of Councillor Ridley's mother.

Members noted that a letter of condolence had been sent on behalf of the City Council to Councillor Ridley and his family.

77. Death of Former Councillor Rider's Father

Councillor Mutton drew attention to the recent sad death of former Councillor Rider's father.

78. Petitions

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

- (a) **Objection to Planning Application for the Erection of 18 Two Bedroom Residential Apartments and Associated Car Parking at**

Land Between 16 and 28 Threadneedle Street – 42 signatures presented by Councillor Asif.

- (b) **Closure of the Blood Tests Clinic and the Parents and Baby Clinic at Poitiers Road Clinic, Cheylesmore** – 469 signatures presented by Councillor Clifford.
- (c) **Request for the Installation of Traffic Calming Measures in Telfer Road** – 30 signatures presented by Councillor Skipper.
- (d) **Request for the Removal of Parking Restrictions on the Parking Bay Outside 934 to 950 Foleshill Road** – 8 signatures presented by Councillor Asif.
- (e) **Request for a Pedestrian Crossing Outside Bablake School** – 460 signatures presented by Councillor Arrowsmith.
- (f) **Objection to a Bus Entrance to the Hospital from Farber Road** – 48 signatures presented by Councillor Kelly.
- (g) **Request to Improve Road Safety on Lower Ford Street** – 17 signatures presented by Councillor Windsor.
- (h) **Request to Resurface the Road and Pavement at Lower Ford Street** – 17 signatures presented by Councillor Windsor.

79. **Question Time**

The appropriate members answered all the questions set out in the questions booklet, together with supplementary questions put to them at the meeting. In respect of supplementary questions relating to question 1 concerning the costs of paper recycling including the provision of wheelie bins and the recycling of batteries, a written response be circulated to all members. In respect of Question 4, the written response to Councillor Patton regarding brown tourist signs be circulated to all members of the Council.

The following Members answered oral 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
1. Councillor Mutton	Councillor O'Neill	Implementing recommendations in Dr John Bloomfield's report – Coventry's European Future – how the City's European Aspirations can best be achieved.
2. Councillor Townshend	Councillor Mrs Johnson	How many single status claims were expected in the next two months and how

		much had been budgeted for in relation to compensation claims and legal costs for this year.
3. Councillor Nellist	Councillor O'Neill	Numbers of employees leaving or changing jobs at the Council in view of single status.
4. Councillor Kelly	Councillor Arrowsmith	Why Ward Councillors had not been consulted and local residents surveyed on a bus entrance to the Hospital from Farber Road.
5. Councillor Asif	Councillor Foster	Recent Investment/Improvements in Street Cleansing in the City.
6. Councillor Nellist	Councillor O'Neill	Numbers of Agency Staff/Consultants employed by the Council and associated costs.

RESOLVED that in relation to questions 2, 5 and 6 above, a written response be submitted to all members of the Council in accordance with paragraph 4.1.24 of the City Council's Constitution.

80. Understanding the Future: Priorities for England's Museums – Response to Consultation Document from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport

Further to Minute 166/06 of Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Director of Community Services, which detailed a proposed response to the consultation document from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), which set out its priorities for England's museums over the next decade. The deadline for submitting the response was 19th January 2007. It was noted that the report had also been considered by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee at their meeting on 3rd January 2007, and a briefing note outlining their views was also considered.

The DCMS had the responsibility for central government's relationships with and policy concerning museums in England. It had a direct relationship with the 'national' museums and a relationship with regional museums, which was largely conducted through the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA).

The DCMS was undertaking a three-stage consultation process to arrive at a set of priorities for all museums in England and the public programmes that support them. In 2005, the DCMS published "Understanding the Future: Museums and 21st Century Life" which aimed to set out the full range of issues affecting museums. A summary of responses to this paper was published at the end of 2005.

The second paper, "Understanding the Future: Priorities for England's museums", was the result of collaboration between DCMS officials and representatives of organisations "conscious of and committed to the need for further change for the

benefit of museum audiences". The paper set out the issues that were at the top of the DCMS's agenda for museums over the next decade and was appended to the report submitted.

Responses to this document were invited by 19th January 2007 and would inform the third stage of the process, which would involve holding a series of five seminars on each of the chapters in the consultation document, learning; identity; collections; workforce; and structures. The DCMS would then ask the MLA to prepare an action plan based on responses to the consultation document and the seminars. This action plan was intended to set out the first steps to deliver the priorities and timescales for developing "an ambitious, long-term project".

Central government policy on regional museums was a key influence on the development and work of museums in Coventry. Both the Coventry Transport Museum (CTM) and the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum (HAGM) had benefited from central government funding initiatives for regional museums in recent years. The national importance of the collections at the CTM had been recognised and it has benefited from grants from the Designation Challenge Fund. The HAGM was a member of the West Midlands Museum Hub alongside Birmingham, Ironbridge, Stoke and Wolverhampton and received funding through the Renaissance in the Regions programme.

Grants from the Designation Challenge Fund, since 1999, had enabled the CTM to create a new interpretive strategy for the museum, which then became critical in accessing large grants for its capital re-development; upgrading the security and storage of its collections; and upgrading existing and creating new displays for its cycle and motorcycle collections and the 80s and 90s display.

Membership of the West Midlands Museum Hub and the central government funding that this brings with it, had enabled the HAGM since 2003 to develop its learning programme work with schools; undertake projects with communities and groups which had been traditionally underrepresented in museum audiences; improve access to its collections by improving the catalogue information on its collections and investing in displays which would be realised as part of its capital redevelopment; and work in partnership with other museums both nationally and regionally to enhance its exhibitions programme.

The DCMS consultation document which was reproduced suggested priorities for museums over the next ten year period in five key groupings indicated below:-

- (i) Museums will fulfil their potential as learning resources;
- (ii) Museums will embrace their role in fostering, exploring, celebrating and questioning the identities of diverse communities;
- (iii) Museums' collections will be more dynamic and better used;
- (iv) Museums' workforces will be dynamic, highly skilled and representative;
- (v) Museums will work more closely with each other and partners outside

the sector.

The report submitted indicated various aims under each of these headings and it was noted that both the CTM and the HAGM were already tackling many of the issues identified in the DCMS consultation paper. Their ability to contribute towards both local and central government agendas had been considerably enhanced by the capital and revenue investment in both organisations made by the City Council. Both played a role regionally and nationally and this was recognised in the funding received from the Designation Challenge Fund and the Renaissance in the Regions programme.

The proposed response from the City Council to the consultation paper was detailed in Appendix 1 to the report and in summary was broadly supportive of the priorities in the DCMS paper; stressed the importance which the City Council attached to the role of museums as evidenced by the investment which the City Council had made and continued to make in the CTM and the HAGM; and underlined the importance of continued central government funding to regional museums particularly through the Renaissance in the Regions programme and the Designation Challenge Fund.

It was noted that when considering the briefing note submitted by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, the Cabinet had acknowledged the comments made in relation to the short timescale given for responses to the consultation document and had agreed to indicate that the Government ought to allow more time for responses to consultation documents in order to enable thorough consideration to be given.

RESOLVED that the City Council approve the draft response as detailed in the Appendix to the report, amended as necessary in light of the comments received from the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and the Cabinet in relation to timescales.

81. Appointments to Outside Bodies – City Wide Business Improvement District

The City Council considered a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services which sought to nominate a Director to the Board of the City Wide Business Improvement District Company.

RESOLVED that the City Council nominate Councillor Arrowsmith to take up the place allocated to the City Council on the Board of the City Wide Business Improvement District Company.

82. Debate – Vibrant City Centre – Bus Fares and Car Parks

Councillor McNicholas moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Batten:

"This Council's vision is one of a vibrant City Centre. To achieve this we recognise we must encourage people to use the City Centre for shopping, business and leisure activities so that we can continue to attract more quality shops into our City Centre, thereby, attracting people to live and invest in our

City Centre.

Recent announcements making it more expensive to visit the City Centre may undermine our investments to make the City Centre one to be proud of.

Therefore, this Council deplores the recent exorbitant increases in bus fares and reiterates its support for quality contracts. Furthermore, this Council totally opposes the privatisation of car parks in Coventry."

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Arrowsmith, seconded by Councillor Dixon and carried, giving rise to the following substantive motion:

"This Council's vision is one of a vibrant City Centre. To achieve this we recognise we must encourage people to use the City Centre for shopping, business and leisure activities so that we can continue to attract more quality shops into our City Centre, thereby, attracting people to live and invest in our City Centre.

Recent announcements making it more expensive to visit the City Centre may undermine our investments to make the City Centre one to be proud of.

Therefore, this Council deplores the recent exorbitant increases in bus fares and will work with Centro and Government to introduce Quality partnerships or Contracts when appropriate. Furthermore, this Council totally opposes the privatisation of car parks in Coventry."

RESOLVED that the substantive motion, as set out above, be adopted.

(NOTE: The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.)