

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY

30th March, 2010

PRESENT

Lord Mayor (Councillor Harrison)

Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Kelsey)

Councillor Adalat	Councillor Lee
Councillor Andrews	Councillor Mrs Lucas
Councillor Arrowsmith	Councillor Maton
Councillor Asif	Councillor McNicholas
Councillor Auluck	Councillor Mulhall
Councillor Bailey	Councillor J. Mutton
Councillor Bains	Councillor Mrs. M. Mutton
Councillor Mrs. Bigham	Councillor Nellist
Councillor Blundell	Councillor Noonan
Councillor Charley	Councillor O'Boyle
Councillor Cliffe	Councillor O'Neill
Councillor Clifford	Councillor Miss Reece
Councillor Crookes	Councillor Ridge
Councillor Mrs. Dixon	Councillor Ridley
Councillor Duggins	Councillor Ruane
Councillor Field	Councillor Sawdon
Councillor Foster	Councillor Skinner
Councillor Gazey	Councillor Skipper
Councillor Harvard	Councillor Smith
Councillor Mrs. Johnson	Councillor Mrs Sweet
Councillor Kelly	Councillor Taylor
Councillor Khan	Councillor Townshend
Councillor Lakha	Councillor Mrs. Waters
Councillor Lancaster	Councillor Williams
Councillor Lapsa	Councillor Windsor

Apologies: Councillor Chater

Public Business

122. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February, 2010 were agreed as a true record.

123. Coventry Good Citizen Award

On behalf of the Council, the Lord Mayor and his Honour Judge Hodson, the Honorary Recorder, presented Maggie Gallagher with the Coventry Good Citizen Award. Her citation read:

"Maggie Gallagher runs her own Line Dancing Club, but also raises cash for charities including the British Heart Foundation, Snowball appeal, and the Cleft Lip and Palette Association.

In just over 10 years, Maggie has worked extremely hard and raised over £85,000 for the charities by putting on Irish Dance shows. She does her own choreography for her dancers and includes Irish dancing and line dancing in the performances.

Maggie gives up all her free time for months before a show, to fit in the countless rehearsals to ensure that everything will 'be alright on the night'.

Maggie is a very loyal person to all her dancers and a trusted friend to many people and is deserving of the title Good Citizen of Coventry."

124. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the items of business indicated below on the grounds that that item involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of that Act as indicated.

Minute No.	Subject	Relevant Paragraphs(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
135/09	Wide Area Network, Urban Traffic Management Control and Primelines Update	3

125. Retirement of Councillor O'Neill

The Lord Mayor referred to Councillor O'Neill who would not be standing for re-election to the Council at this year's Municipal Elections. Councillor O'Neill had represented Woodlands Ward since 2000. He had been Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, Deputy Leader of the Council, Deputy Chair of Cabinet, Cabinet Member (Finance and Equalities) and Cabinet Member (Finance, Procurement and Value for Money). He had also been a member of many other bodies.

Members expressed their thanks to Councillor O'Neill for his contribution to the work of the City Council and wished him well for the future.

126. Civic Engagements

The Lord Mayor informed the Council of his recent civic engagements, which totalled 70 giving a running total of 505 to date. The Lord Mayor had attended an

International Dinner on 13th March, 2010, to celebrate Coventry's multi-cultural diversity, the Iconic blowdown of the Chimney Stack and Water at Courtaulds, a twin city visit to Cork for St. Patrick's Day and hosted the Lord Mayor's Charity Ball. A Family Open Day was held on the 27th March, 2010.

The Lord Mayor had also sadly attended the Military Funeral for Sapper Guy Mellors, a soldier serving with the 36 Engineer Regiment in Afghanistan.

127. Petitions

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

- (a) Petition for the resurfacing of Macdonald Road – 57 signatures presented by Councillor Townshend.**
- (b) Request the City Council to take appropriate and swift enforcement action against the business being carried out at 16 West Avenue, Stoke Park, Coventry – 15 signatures presented by Councillor Townshend.**
- (c) Petition for the repair of Mantilla Drive, Styvechale Grange – 47 signatures, presented by Councillor Blundell**
- (d) Request for a new pedestrian crossing across Brownhill Green Road near to its junction with Coundon Green Road – 15 signatures, presented by Councillor Gazey.**
- (e) Petition for a fully equipped coach station for the City of Coventry – 116 signatures, presented by Councillor Bains.**

128. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

129. City Centre Area Action Plan (APP) – Submission Draft

Further to Minute 121/09 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development, which outlined representations received on the City Centre Area Action Plan and sought authority to submit the revised draft for examination by the Secretary of State and for publication for a further 6 weeks of public consultation.

The Council was preparing a City Centre Area Action Plan to provide a statutory basis for the consideration of development proposals that would deliver the transformational change of the City Centre outlined in the Core Strategy. A copy of the revised draft City Centre Area Action Plan was appended to the report submitted. Appendix 2 of the report identified the key concerns raised at the previous consultation and outlined how the Council had addressed these concerns.

The Cabinet had noted that the Submission Draft of the City Centre Area Action Plan included a number of policies which proposed development guidance and changes to the key areas of Heritage and Design; Routes and Linkages; Building Heights; Spaces and Environmental Improvements; and Car Parking. These overarching policies were

complemented with a further suite of policies related to 10 specific quarters, which built on the guidance in the Core Strategy.

The Cabinet had further noted that the report had previously been considered by the Cabinet (City Centre) Advisory Panel and a briefing note detailing their consideration of this matter was circulated in advance of the meeting. The Panel had recommended that:-

- (a) An additional bullet point be added to part D of Policy CC 2, to specifically identify improved linkages between the Canal Basin and Bishop Street.
- (b) In paragraph 2.41, the words "is desirable" be replaced with "will be required".

In addition, the briefing note provided clarification in relation to the densities proposed for each of the identified sites in the Swanswell Quarter.

The Director of City Services and Development had reported at the meeting of Cabinet that discussions had taken place earlier in the day with Government Office and it had been recommended that paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of the report submitted be included within the City Centre Area Action Plan after paragraph 1.11.

The Cabinet had agreed the amendments proposed by the Advisory Panel and the Director of City Services and Development and requested that an updated report, clearly identifying these amendments, be produced prior to the consideration of this matter by the Council on 30th March 2010. This report, with amendments highlighted, was therefore appended to these minutes.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- (1) Approve the Proposed Submission Document for Coventry's City Centre Area Action Plan.**
- (2) Approve its publication for a period of statutory consultation.**
- (3) Authorise the Director of City Services and Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Member (City Development), to make minor amendments to the City Centre Area Action Plan, where this is necessary to correct any errors and aid clarity.**

130. Wide Area Network, Urban Traffic Management Control and PrimeLines Update

Further to Minute 132/09 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a joint report, which provided an update on the progress of three major projects - Wide Area Network 2 (WAN), Urban Traffic Management Control (UTMC) and Primelines. These projects were being managed as one overall programme so that road users, Council services and partners all benefit from a more resilient, effective and innovative ICT communications infrastructure across the City.

A corresponding private report, detailing commercially confidential and financial aspects of this proposal, was also submitted to the meeting (Minute 135 below refers).

The WAN project's aim was to provide a longer term ICT network solution across

the City to meet the Council's growing needs, reduce growing telephone and ICT line costs, and protect the Council from any future price rises. It was a complex and innovative project, which would provide substantial benefits to Council users and help to meet the increasing demands of delivering services for the City's residents.

Whilst the Primelines and UTMC projects pre-dated the decision to implement a fibre optic WAN, it was agreed that the ICT requirements of those projects, which also used the corporate network, should be brought together with the WAN.

A single Programme Board had been operating since March 2008, which had provided appropriate corporate governance to reflect both the significance of each project, and the risks associated with delivering one integrated ICT solution to satisfy collective requirements.

In addition, the WAN solution was also supporting the ICT requirements of the City Wide BID company and Coventry Best for Business (CBfB). The Cabinet noted that the CBfB Board had suspended this work until further notice. It was further noted that an additional £1m of corporate capital resources was approved in January 2009 to deliver these schemes.

The report submitted provided detailed information on the current position of each project, along with details of any ongoing issues that would need to be addressed.

Having considered the report submitted the Cabinet requested that a series of reviews be commissioned in order to establish lessons learned from all three projects.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- (1) Endorse the updated position with regard to each individual project.**
- (2) Recognise the additional costs of the combined programme of project and approve the proposed financing arrangements detailed in the report.**

131. Local Area Agreement

The City Council considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which sought agreement to amendments to the targets for two indicators in the Coventry Local Area Agreement for submission of the Agreement to Government.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 required every local authority area to develop a Sustainable Community Strategy setting out the vision and priorities for the local area and to agree a new Local Area Agreement with central government. The Government expects Local Area Agreements to balance the delivery of the local priorities on the one hand with the delivery of national priorities, as expressed by the Government's new national indicator set for local government and its partners, on the other.

The Coventry Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 (LAA) was based on local priorities that local people and communities think important such as priorities around employment, skills, health housing, community safety and the environment. The agreement was produced through negotiations between the Coventry Partnership, including Coventry City Council, and central government and sets out the priorities,

indicators and targets that had been agreed.

The Coventry Local Area Agreement was endorsed by the Coventry Partnership Board at their meeting on 8 May 2008 and approved by Coventry City Council at a meeting of full council on 27 May 2008 and signed on behalf of the government by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Hazel Blears MP on 30 June 2008.

Every LAA was the subject of an annual "review and refresh" by central government to assess progress and change targets where it was considered necessary.

On 17th March 2009, following work with partners and discussions with government, the Council adopted revisions to the LAA which reflected changes and developments to the National Indicator Set.

As the LAA enters its final year, government had limited the scope of the annual review and refresh to a small number of indicators that it had identified last year as being affected by the national economic situation, indicators with deferred targets and indicators drawn from the Place Survey. The process had been led by the Government Offices on behalf of the range of departments responsible for LAA indicators with appropriate local partners from the Coventry Partnership and the approach to amendments was endorsed by the Local Public Service Board at its meeting on 17th February 2010.

It was not proposed to change any of the priorities and indicators in the LAA.

Following negotiations by the relevant partner organisations with central government, changes to the targets for two indicators were proposed for 2010/11 and these were included in the revised table set out in appendix A to the report.

National Indicator 154 measures the net additional number of new homes built (build completions, minus demolitions, plus any gains or losses through change of use and conversions) and had been significantly affected by the national economic situation. This refresh makes changes to the targets for the 2009/10 and 2010/11 years based on the housing trajectory prepared for Coventry's Core Strategy examination and in line with the recommendations for phasing Coventry's housing requirement under the Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 2 Panel Report made in November 2009. This approach was endorsed at the Coventry Partnership's Housing Theme Group on 11th December.

National Indicator 152 measures the percentage of the working age population who were claiming out of work benefits and Coventry like other areas had seen this figure rise. In the future, this indicator will form part of the Multi Area Agreement on Employment and Skills which was approved by Council on 29th June 2009 and would be delivered in partnership with Birmingham; Solihull; Sandwell; Dudley; Walsall; Wolverhampton and Telford and Wrekin. The proposed target for the final year of the LAA is based on achieving a 0.1% decrease on the most recent position (which has increased for each of the last four quarters). Government requires that the target was expressed in line with the proposed framework for the Multi Area Agreement, in terms of the gap between the Coventry position and the England average. This approach was based on work with partners and was endorsed at the Coventry Partnership's Economy Learning Skills and Employment Theme Group on 8th March 2010.

There were a number of indicators not showing final year targets. The LAA includes 10 mandatory indicators for children and young people related to early years and children's educational attainment. These were negotiated through a separate process with

the Department for Children Schools and Families and targets for these indicators were set annually and do not form part of the LAA refresh. National Indicator 112 measures the under 18 conception rate. The target for 2010/11 was left blank as the only target that government would allow local areas to include was the National Teenage Pregnancy Strategy 2010 target, which was set ten years ago and would not be achieved. Partners remain committed to improving performance for this local priority and progress would continue to be monitored and reported as part of the LAA process.

The Council had a statutory duty to agree a LAA with central government and agree annual amendments through negotiations.

RESOLVED that the City Council formally adopt the revised draft Coventry Local Area Agreement.

132. Question Time

The appropriate Members provided a written response to all the questions set out in the Questions Booklet, together with an oral response to supplementary questions put to them at the meeting.

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

No	Question Asked By	Question Put To	Subject Matter
1	Councillor Nellist	Councillor Gazey	Fire Authority Expenditure
2	Councillor Nellist	Councillor Foster	Budget allocation from the Government for potholes
3	Councillor Windsor	Councillor Foster	Delivery of mail
4	Councillor Mutton	Councillor Foster	Change in payment arrangements
5	Councillor Mutton	Councillor Blundell	Building Schools for the Future programme
6	Councillor Mutton	Councillor Ridley	Survey in Woodlands Ward on Weekly refuse collection
7	Councillor Townshend	Councillor Mrs. Dixon	Number of Compromise Agreements negotiated this year
8	Councillor Field	Councillor Blundell	John Gulson School
9	Councillor Ridley	Councillor Mrs. Dixon	Decrease in Sickness Figures

10	Councillor Mrs. Sweet	Councillor Noonan	Potholes
11	Councillor Windsor	Councillor Noonan	Red dust from former Peugeot Site
12	Councillor Townshend	Councillor Taylor	Single Status
13	Councillor Townshend	Councillor Noonan	Standard of roads in Lower Stoke

133. Statement by the Leader of the Council

There was no statement.

134. Debate – Public Sector Pay

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

"This Council, recognising that some public service workers will receive pay increases in 2010, believe it is unjust to make no pay offer this year to local authority workers, especially to the lowest paid staff.

This Council calls on the National Employers to now make an offer in the context of the Government's future one percent limit on public sector pay.

Council further calls for an examination of the adoption of a local living wage along the lines of similar policies adopted in Manchester, Oxford and London."

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Nellist, seconded by Councillor Windsor and lost:-

Paragraph 2, line 1:

Delete "in the context of the Government's future one percent limit on public sector pay"

Insert "at a level necessary to protect living standards and lift the lowest paid out of poverty".

A further amendment was then moved by Councillor Foster and seconded by Councillor Arrowsmith:-

"1st Paragraph, 3rd line:

Delete ", especially to lowest paid staff" and **insert** "earning £18,000or under per year. after "workers"

2nd Paragraph, 2nd line:

Delete "full stop." and **Insert** "and agrees that this should take priority over an increase for those on higher salaries." after "London"

This amendment was carried giving rise to the following substantive motion:

"This Council, recognising that some public service workers will receive pay increases in 2010, believe it is unjust to make no pay offer this year to local authority workers earning £18,000 or under per year.

This Council calls on the National Employers to now make an offer in the context of the Government's future one percent limit on public sector pay, to those earning £18,000 or under.

Council further calls for an examination of the adoption of a local living wage along the lines of similar policies adopted in Manchester, Oxford and London and agrees that this should take priority over an increase for those on higher salaries."

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

Private Business

135. Wider Area Network, Urban Traffic Management Control and Prime Lines Update

Further to Minute 135/09 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a joint report which provided an update on the progress of three major projects - Wide Area Network 2 (WAN), Urban Traffic Management Control (UTMC) and Primelines. These projects were being managed as one overall programme so that road users, Council services and partners all benefit from a more resilient, effective and innovative ICT communications infrastructure across the City. The report contained confidential financial and contractual details relating to the proposal.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- (1) Endorse the updated position with regard to each individual project.**
- (2) Recognise the additional costs of the combined programme of project and approve the proposed financing arrangements detailed in the report.**

(Meeting closed: 7.05 p.m.)