

# COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY

14 September 2010

## PRESENT

Lord Mayor (Councillor Kelsey)

Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Mulhall)

Councillor Abbott	Councillor Lee
Councillor Andrews	Councillor Mrs Lepoidevin
Councillor Auluck	Councillor Mrs Lucas
Councillor Bains	Councillor Maton
Councillor Mrs. Bigham	Councillor McNicholas
Councillor Blundell	Councillor Mulhall
Councillor Charley	Councillor J. Mutton
Councillor Chater	Councillor Mrs. M. Mutton
Councillor Cliffe	Councillor Nellist
Councillor Clifford	Councillor Noonan
Councillor Crookes	Councillor O'Boyle
Councillor Mrs. Dixon	Councillor Ridley
Councillor Duggins	Councillor Ruane
Councillor Foster	Councillor Sawdon
Councillor Gazey	Councillor Sehmi
Councillor Hammon	Councillor Singh
Councillor Harrison	Councillor Skinner
Councillor Harvard	Councillor Skipper
Councillor Mrs. Johnson	Councillor Smith
Councillor Kelly	Councillor Mrs Sweet
Councillor A Khan	Councillor Taylor
Councillor T Khan	Councillor Townshend
Councillor Lakha	Councillor Walsh
Councillor Lancaster	Councillor Welsh
Councillor Lapsa	Councillor Williams

Apologies: Councillor Asif  
Councillor Bailey  
Councillor Field

## Public Business

### 44. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 24<sup>th</sup> June and 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010 were agreed as true records.

#### **45. Coventry Good Citizen Award**

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

"Rhoda Hackett is a committed community volunteer and has worked on many projects in Longford over a number of years, including organising voluntary football sessions, raising funds for equipment and starting a breakfast club in Longford.

She is a champion for local young talent and arranges for bands to play at local events, and was a prime 'mover and shaker' in the Longford Community Fayre, which became an annual event.

Rhoda has spent many hours on voluntary committees and at meetings over the years, working hard for the Longford area.

Rhoda puts in 200 per cent effort into the projects for both the young and older people in her community, but she asks for no reward. Her reward is seeing her local community thrive and bonding together to support and encourage each other.

Rhoda is an absolute star and deserves to be called a Good Citizen of Coventry."

#### **46. 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.**

<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Relevant Paragraphs(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A</b>
65	Validation of i-Cov Project's Value for Money	3
66	Ricoh Arena Car Park C – Hotel Development Heads of Terms	3

#### **47. Presentation of Illuminated Minute**

Members noted that the presentation of the Illuminated Minute relating to the Vote of Thanks to former Lord Mayor, Councillor Jack Harrison MBE.JP, had taken place privately at his request due to his current personal circumstances.

#### **48. Death of Former Lord Mayor**

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent sad death of former Councillor and Lord Mayor, Don Ewart.

Don served as a member of the City Council for 25 years representing Wyken Ward. He was Chair and Vice-Chair of various Committees including City Development and Property Management, Leisure Services, Community and Leisure Policy Co-ordinating Committee and Sports and Parks Policy Team.

He was Lord Mayor in 1992-1993.

Members noted that a letter had been sent to his family expressing the Council's sincere condolences.

#### **49. Death of former Coventry MP**

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent sad death of former Coventry MP Bill Wilson.

Bill served as a Member of Parliament for 19 years from 1964 to 1983 representing Coventry South.

Members noted that a letter had been sent to his family expressing the Council's sincere condolences.

#### **50. Petitions**

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

- (a) Opposing proposed closure of the local Neighbourhood Management Centre, One Stop Shop, Barley Lea House – 400 signatures presented by Councillor McNicholas.**
- (b) Proposed closure of One Stop Shop, Stoke Aldermoor – 117 signatures, presented by Councillor Nellist.**
- (c) Requesting regeneration of Coventry City Centre – 205 signatures presented by Councillor Bains.**
- (d) Basketball Court, Yardley Street – 22 signatures, presented by Councillor Welsh.**
- (e) Asian Christian Christmas lights switch on – 353 signatures, presented by Councillor Lapsa.**
- (f) Proposed closure of Neighbourhood Office, Vine Street – 134 signatures, presented by Councillor Nellist.**

#### **51. Declarations of Interest**

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

## **Interests in Recommendations**

### **Minute 54 and Minute 65 – Validation of i-Cov Project's Value of Money**

#### Personal Interests

Councillor Foster (Director of ICT firm in the City)

Councillor Williams (Director of ICT firm in the City)

### **Minute 57 – Council Response to the Home Office Consultation – Policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Reconnecting Police and the People**

#### Personal Interest:

Councillor Lepoidevin (Employed by the Police Service)

### **Minute 58 – Response to Petition Submitted on the End of the Siege of Gaza**

#### Prejudicial Interests:

Councillor Mrs Johnson

Councillor Williams

(Councillors Mrs Johnson and Williams left the meeting during consideration of this item).

#### Personal Interest:

Councillor Cliffe (On the Electoral Role at Coventry Cathedral)

### **Minute 61 – 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' White Paper**

#### Personal Interests

Councillor Harrison (Non-executive Director of UHCW)

Councillor Sawdon (Non-executive Director of UHCW)

Councillor Townshend (Chairman of UHCW)

Note: As a Director of ACL, the Chief Executive declared an interest in Minutes 56 and 66 (Ricoch Arena Car Park C – Hotel Development Heads of Terms). He, together with Chris West, Director of Finance and Legal Services and John McGuigan, Director of Strategic Planning and Partnerships, who were also Directors of ACL, left the meeting during consideration of this item.

## **52. Amendments to Capital Programme Expenditure 2010/11**

Further to Minute 25/10 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development and the Director of Finance and Legal Services, which reviewed the 2010/11 Capital Programme for Highways Maintenance and Investment, as approved by Cabinet on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2010, in response to the following:

- Reductions of government grant totalling £1.36m.
- Overspends on Hill Street Footbridge and the 2009/10 Highways maintenance budget totalling £0.931m.
- Transfer of £1m from integrated transport schemes and other City Services and Development budgets to support the £3m additional capital funding approved for pothole and road repairs agreed by Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

A revised programme was presented that balanced the budget, taking advantage of a relaxation to the ring-fencing of the de-trunking grant. In reallocating funding within the integrated transport block, the emphasis had been on maintenance and safety.

The appendices to the report set out in detail the spending programmes for maintenance and local safety schemes.

The reduced requirement from the Integrated Transport Programme would, in response to concerns expressed by members, allow funding levels to be restored on local safety schemes, safer routes to school and Stoney Stanton Road to the levels agreed on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

Councillor Foster moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Noonan and lost:

"That Council amends the recommendations on page 2 of the report as follows:

At the end of recommendation (1) delete "." and insert ", with the exception of the proposed reduction in the Resident Parking scheme budget contained in paragraph 2.13 and appendix A."

Then, after recommendation (2) on page 2 insert an additional recommendation to read:

"(3) That the £68k required for the residents parking budget be identified from the additional £1.1m allocated to the Pension Strain Reserve by Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010."

Amended recommendations to then read:

- (1) The amendments to the 2010/11 Highways Investment and Maintenance Programme as set out in Appendix A, with the exception of the proposed reduction in the Resident Parking Scheme Budget contained in paragraph 2.13 and appendix A
- (2) The detailed spending programmes set out in Appendices B to G.
- (3) That the £68k required for the residents parking budget be identified from the additional £1.1m allocated to the Pension strain Reserves by Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010.

**RESOLVED that the City Council notes the Cabinet's decision to approve:**

**(1) The amendments to the 2010/11 Highway's Investment and Maintenance Programme as set out in Appendix A.**

**(2) The detailed spending programmes set out in Appendices B to G.**

Note: In respect of the above amendment, a recorded vote was required in accordance with paragraph 4.1.71 of the City Council's Constitution. The Councillors voting for and against the amendment were as follows:

For

Councillor Andrews  
Councillor Blundell

Against

Councillor Abbott  
Councillor Bains

Abstain

Councillor Charley  
Councillor Cliffe  
Councillor Crookes  
Councillor Mrs. Dixon  
Councillor Foster  
Councillor Gazey  
Councillor Hammon  
Councillor Mrs. Johnson  
Councillor Lapsa  
Councillor Lee  
Councillor Lepoidevin  
Councillor Nellist  
Councillor Noonan  
Councillor Ridley  
Councillor Sawdon  
Councillor Skinner  
Councillor Smith  
Councillor Taylor  
Councillor Williams  
Lord Mayor

Councillor Mrs. Bigham  
Councillor Chater  
Councillor Clifford  
Councillor Duggins  
Councillor Harrison  
Councillor Harvard  
Councillor Kelly  
Councillor A Khan  
Councillor T Khan  
Councillor Lakha  
Councillor Lancaster  
Councillor Mrs Lucas  
Councillor McNicholas  
Councillor Maton  
Councillor Mulhall  
Councillor J. Mutton  
Councillor M. Mutton  
Councillor O'Boyle  
Councillor Ruane  
Councillor B Singh  
Councillor Singh Sehmi  
Councillor Skipper  
Councillor Mrs Sweet  
Councillor Townshend  
Councillor Walsh  
Councillor Welsh

Result: 22 for  
28 against  
0 abstentions

### **53. Audit Committee Annual Report 2009/10**

Further to Minute 18/10 of the Audit Committee, the City Council considered the Audit Committee Annual report for 2009/10.

During 2009-10, the Council's Audit Committee met formally on seven occasions, with an additional session for training purposes held in January 2010. Meetings were held in June, August, September and November 2009 as well as in January, February and April 2010. The report gave details of the reports considered by the Audit Committee in 2009-10 which included Accountancy, Internal Audit and Risk Management, and External Audit reports. The Committee had also considered other reports and briefings on Housing Benefit Fraud, Data Quality and ICT Network Storage.

The Committee had also received a training session in January 2010 which covered Performance/Financial Management, Treasury Management, International Financial Reporting Standards, and Risk Management.

In 2010-11, the Audit Committee's initial focus would be ensuring that effective action be taken in response to areas for improvements highlighted in the Annual Governance Statement for 2009-10.

**RESOLVED that the City Council note the activity of the Audit Committee**

during 2009-10 and its priorities for 2010-11.

#### **54. Validation of i-Cov Project's Value for Money**

Further to Minute 31/10 of the Cabinet, this City Council considered a report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Customer and Workforce Services which outlined work undertaken to provide an independent report into the value for money aspect of PwC's work on the implementation of the i-Cov project.

A corresponding private report, detailing commercially confidential and financial aspects of this matter, was also submitted to the meeting (Minute 65 below refers).

The report indicated that SOCITM (Society of ICT Managers – an independent group) had been commissioned to produce a report benchmarking the value of PwC's involvement on this project against typical rates and services available in the wider UK market. To further support this, the Council had sought additional independent information from the Office of Government Commerce and the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation on behalf of Pro Five and had spoken to other local Authorities who had used PwC or other management consultants.

In summary, the data gathering exercise had found the cost of PwC's involvement to be towards the top end of the expected financial range for consultancy fees, but that given the complexity, breadth and depth of the ICT transformation programme and the current lack of managerial capacity within the department, that the high calibre of support provided by PwC's involvement represented value for money for the Council.

**RESOLVED that the City Council note the outcome of the independent report into the value for money aspect of PwC's work on the implementation of the i-Cov project.**

#### **55. Appointment to the Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee (BLASJC)**

Further to Minute 30/10 of the Cabinet Member (City Services) meeting, the City Council considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development that sought approval for Coventry City Council to join the Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee (BLASJC) and to appoint a representative and deputy representative to the BLASJC to act on behalf of the Authority.

The Cabinet Member, had, at his meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2010, agreed that the City Council join the Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee (BLASJC) and details of the purpose of the Committee were detailed in the report.

**RESOLVED that the City Council appoint the Cabinet Member (City Services) and the Cabinet Member (City Development) to the BLASJC to act as Coventry City Council's representative and deputy representative respectively.**

#### **56. Ricoh Arena Car Park C – Hotel Development Heads of Terms**

Further to Minute 41/10 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development which indicated that, to help with the future successful development of commercial activity at the Ricoh Arena, there had been a long held aspiration and commercial understanding of both the City Council and Arena

Coventry Limited (ACL), the company responsible for the management and successful development of the multipurpose arena and conference facilities, to deliver additional hotel bed spaces close to this regionally important development.

ACL along with the Council had recently been approached by two hotel operators who in two facilities were seeking to provide in the region of two hundred additional bed spaces with ancillary leisure facilities. Hotel site 1 & Hotel site 2 were the proposed locations for the hotel developments within car park C and were identified on Plan 1 attached to the report.

A corresponding private report, which detailed commercially confidential and financial aspects of the proposal, was also submitted to the meeting (Minute 66 below refers).

The proposal was for further hotel accommodation to facilitate the Ricoh Arena's current and future commercial activities, which it was considered appropriate to encourage and facilitate. The displacement of parking spaces as a result of the Hotel developments had been recognised and considered. The area of land needed for both hotels developments equated to approx 2 acres with Hotel site 1 affecting approximately 200 spaces and Hotel Site 2 affecting approximately 30 coach spaces. The Arena did not rely on the car parking spaces within car park C for its average day to day activities. In order to operate the major events ACL were required to comply with the existing Arena planning requirements and produce a Green Travel Plan. This identified the travel needs for each event and how these were to be accommodated. Site A would be added to ACL's Arena lease, offering the opportunity to provide additional car parking spaces if required as part of their Green Travel Plan.

The hotel development would need to be completed in advance of the development moratorium imposed by the Olympic Games; a start on site would have to be made by the end of 2010 with completion no later than early 2012. If the heads of terms of within the report were approved, then it was anticipated that development agreements with the developers/hotel companies would be completed before the end of 2010.

The report detailed the legal and financial implications of the proposal.

**RESOLVED that, subject to the consideration of the additional information contained in the associated private report (Minute 66 below refers), the City Council:**

- (1) Approve the main terms set out in the report as a conditional contract on a subject to planning basis, for the surrender or assignment of the existing lease and the grant of new long leases up to a maximum term of 150 years to facilitate one or both hotel developments, subject to the grant of planning permission.**
- (2) Delegate authority to the Director of City Services and Development and Assistant Director of Special Projects Finance/Assistant Director Financial Management, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (City Development), to conclude all necessary documentation required to complete the land transaction based on the current assumption as to the parties concerned, in the most tax efficient way for the Council and to agree any costs that may result from complying with the heads of terms, providing that they did not exceed £250,000.**



**57. Proposed Response to the Home Office Consultation on Policing – 'Policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Reconnecting Police and the People'**

Further to Minute 46/10 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which detailed the Council's proposed response to a Home Office consultation on the future of policing.

The appended paper set out the Government's vision for policing, which focussed on reducing crime, ensuring value for money and greater accountability to the public, through the provision of directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners. The consultation three state aims were:

- Transferring power back to the people by introducing directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners and establishing Police and Crime Panels. Both of these are to be at a force level;
- Transferring power away from Government by scrapping central targets and trusting the Police to use their professionalism to fulfil their role; and
- Shifting the focus from Government on national issues by creating a new National Crime Agency to lead on dealing with organised crime, protecting the borders and providing services best delivered at the national level.

The proposed changes to the governance arrangements would be outlined in the draft Police Reform & Social Responsibility Bill to be put before Parliament in the Autumn.

The response to the consultation focussed on the issues which are relevant to the Council's role in the local Community Safety Partnership; relating to increasing democratic accountability and tackling crime through partnership working.

The City Council also considered a briefing note detailing the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee's consideration of the consultation response noting that the Cabinet had concurred with the Committee in that it was felt that the new policing model would be unsuitable for a large, diverse area such as the West Midlands.

**RESOLVED that the City Council approve the consultation response.**

**58. Response to Petition – "End the Siege in Gaza"**

Further to Minute 11/10 of the Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) meeting, the City Council considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive concerning a petition, bearing 382 signatures, which had been submitted by Councillor Nellist, a St. Michael's Ward Councillor. The petition asked the City Council to protest to the Israeli authorities on behalf of the city about the killing of aid volunteers during the attack on a flotilla of ships attempting to break the blockade of Gaza and to demand the end of the blockade.

The report set out a brief summary of the background to the current position in Gaza and of the UK government's position, in-line with the petition, and asked the Cabinet Member to recommend to Council that he should write as Leader of the Council to the Israeli Ambassador to deplore the loss of life during the assault on the Gaza flotilla and welcome the resumption of direct peace talks and ask Israel to lift the restrictions on

access to Gaza (as set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1860).

**RESOLVED that the City Council agree:**

- (a) That the Leader of the Council write to the Israeli ambassador to:**
  - (i) Deplore the loss of life during the assault on the Gaza flotilla in May 2010**
  - (ii) Welcome the resumption of direct Israeli-Palestinian peace talks;**
  - (iii) Ask that Israel lift its restrictions on access to Gaza in compliance with UN Security Council resolution 1860 (2009).**
  
- (b) That this Council's decision be sent to the Local Government Association with a request to invite other Councils to follow our example**

**59. Amendment to Appointment of Outside Body**

The City Council considered a report of the Director of Customer and Workforce Services which sought approval to amend the City Council's representative on the Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited Board of Directors following the resignation from the Board of Councillor John Mutton.

**RESOLVED that the City Council appoint Councillor John McNicholas as the City Council's representative on the Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited Board of Directors and that Councillor McNicholas be authorised to exercise the Council's vote at General Meetings.**

**60. Scrutiny Boards' Annual Report to Council 2009/2010**

The City Council considered the Scrutiny Boards' Annual report to the City Council for 2009/10.

It was noted that the report had been approved by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 (their Minute 25/10 refers).

**Resolved that the City Council note the Scrutiny Boards' Annual Report 2009/10.**

**61. 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' White Paper – City Council Consultation Response**

The City Council considered a report of the Director of Community Services which introduced the response to the public consultation on 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', a White Paper published by the Government on 12 July 2010 (9.3(i)). Members also considered a political response from the ruling Labour Administration (9.3(ii)) and a briefing note from the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (Scrutiny Board 5).

The White Paper proposals represented the most radical restructuring of the NHS since its inception in 1948. Accompanying the White Paper were five detailed documents which addressed Transparency in Outcomes, Regulating Health Care Providers, Commissioning for Patients, Local Democratic Legitimacy in Health and a review of arms length bodies.

Councillor O'Boyle moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Mrs Lucas and carried:

"To move that reports numbered 9.3(i) and 9.3(ii) will be treated as one response to the Consultation: "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS White Paper" from Coventry City Council, with report 9.3(ii) becoming the substantive response and report 9.3(i) becoming an appendix to the consultation response.

This will then be entitled: **Coventry City Councils response to Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS.** The first sentence in report 9.3(ii) will now read: Coventry City Council does not support these proposals. Paragraph 2.4 of the appendix will now read: Coventry City Council welcomes the opportunity to expose the political dimension within the White paper and therefore the response is written in that vein."

In moving the amended recommendation, the Cabinet Member agreed to incorporate the comments made by the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (Scrutiny Board 5) in the response. It was also clarified at the meeting that report 9.3 (i) would no longer be an officer report.

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

Note: In respect of the above amendment, a recorded vote was required in accordance with paragraph 4.1.71 of the City Council's Constitution. The Councillors voting for and against the amendment were as follows:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Councillor Abbott	Councillor Andrews	
Councillor Auluck	Councillor Blundell	
Councillor Bains	Councillor Charley	
Councillor Mrs. Bigham	Councillor Cliffe	
Councillor Chater	Councillor Crookes	
Councillor Clifford	Councillor Mrs. Dixon	
Councillor Duggins	Councillor Foster	
Councillor Harrison	Councillor Gazey	
Councillor Harvard	Councillor Hammon	
Councillor Kelly	Councillor Mrs. Johnson	
Councillor A Khan	Councillor Lapsa	
Councillor T Khan	Councillor Lee	
Councillor Lakha	Councillor Lepoidevin	
Councillor Lancaster	Councillor Noonan	
Councillor Mrs Lucas	Councillor Ridley	
Councillor McNicholas	Councillor Sawdon	
Councillor Maton	Councillor Skinner	
Councillor Mulhall	Councillor Taylor	
Councillor J. Mutton	Councillor Williams	
Councillor M. Mutton	Lord Mayor	
Councillor Nellist		
Councillor O'Boyle		
Councillor Ruane		
Councillor B Singh		

Councillor Singh Sehmi  
 Councillor Skipper  
 Councillor Mrs Sweet  
 Councillor Townshend  
 Councillor Walsh  
 Councillor Welsh

Result: 30 for  
 20 against  
 0 abstentions

## 62. 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 Sawdon	Councillor Bains	CCTV Cameras
2	Councillor Ridley	Councillor Mrs Bigham	Blitz Memorial
3	Councillor Williams	Councillor Mrs Bigham	German Federal Railways test at Channel Tunnel
4.	Councillor Mrs Lucas	Councillor Townshend	Police House in Holbrooks
5.	Councillor Welsh	Councillor Kelly	GCSE and A-level results
6.	Councillor Welsh	Councillor Clifford	Recruitment of Social Workers from overseas
7.	Councillor Noonan	Councillor O'Boyle	Media coverage of an unkempt garden of a vulnerable individual
8.	Councillor Lapsa	Councillor Skipper	i-Cov Review
9.	Councillor Skinner	Councillor Mrs Bigham	Sounding of sirens in connection with the 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Blitz

10. Councillor Crookes      Councillor Harvard      Temporary traffic arrangements on Gibbet Hill Road

**63. Statement by the Leader of the Council – Regional Spatial Strategy and City Centre Action Plan**

The Leader of the Council made a statement relating to the recently scrapped Regional Spatial Strategies and City Centre Action Plan indicating that it was an opportunity to re-work a new Core Strategy which would take into account regeneration, growth, and the employment and house building needs of the City.

The Leader informed members that a report on a new Core Strategy was being drafted and would be presented to a future meeting after which a consultation process would be undertaken.

The Leader of the opposition group responded to the Statement.

**64. Debate – Coventry's Links with Warwickshire**

Councillor Ridley moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Foster:

"This Council welcomes Bob Ainsworth's call for a public consultation on Coventry's links with Warwickshire"

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Mrs Bigham, seconded by Councillor Townshend, and carried:

Delete the word 'welcomes' and insert the word 'notes'.

Delete the words 'call for a public consultation' and insert the word 'views'.

The amendment now reads:

"This Council notes Bob Ainsworth's views on Coventry's links with Warwickshire."

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

**Private Business**

**65. Validation of i-Cov Project's Value for Money**

Further to Minute 36/10 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Customer and Workforce Services which outlined work undertaken to provide an independent report into the value for money aspect of PwC's work on the implementation of the i-Cov project.

A corresponding public report was also submitted to the meeting (Minute 54 above refers).

The report indicated that SOCITM (Society of ICT Managers – an independent

group) had been commissioned to produce a report benchmarking the value of PwC's involvement on this project against typical rates and services available in the wider UK market. A copy of this document was appended to the report. To further support this, the Council had sought additional independent information from the Office of Government Commerce and the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation on behalf of Pro Five and had spoken to other local Authorities who had used PwC or other management consultants.

In summary, the data gathering exercise had found the cost of PwC's involvement to be towards the top end of the expected financial range for consultancy fees, but that given the complexity, breadth and depth of the ICT transformation programme and the current lack of managerial capacity within the department, that the high calibre of support provided by PwC's involvement represented value for money for the Council.

At their meeting, Cabinet had authorised officers to undertake negotiations on the lines now indicated, based on the information contained in the report.

**RESOLVED That the City Council endorse the Cabinet's decision that officers be delegated authority to undertake negotiations on the lines now indicated, based on the information contained in the reportl.**

#### **66. Ricoh Arena Car Park C – Hotel Development Heads of Terms**

Further to Minute 56 above relating to the public aspects of this matter, the City Council considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development, which sought approval to proposals to facilitate hotel developments on Ricoh Arena car park C.

The report detailed commercially confidential and financial aspects relating to the proposal.

**RESOLVED that the City Council:**

- (1) Approve the main terms set out in the report as a conditional contract, on a subject to planning basis, for the surrender or assignment of the existing lease and the grant of new long leases up to a maximum term of 150 years to facilitate one or both hotel developments subject to the grant of planning permission.**
- (2) Delegate authority to the Director of City Services and Development and Assistant Director of Special Projects Finance/Assistant Director Financial Management, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (City Development), to conclude all necessary documentation required to complete the land transaction based on the current assumption as to the parties concerned, in the most tax efficient way for the Council and to agree any costs that may result from complying with the heads of terms, providing that do not exceed £250,000.**

(Meeting closed: 7.35 pm)