



Coventry City Council

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## **Council Meeting**

7 December 2010

**Booklet 2**

Recommendation Minutes

# **INDEX TO MINUTES**

Cabinet, 30 November 2010

## CABINET

30<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Cabinet Members

Present: -

Councillor Mrs Bigham  
Councillor Clifford  
Councillor Duggins (Deputy Chair)  
Councillor Harvard  
Councillor Kelly  
Councillor A. Khan  
Councillor J. Mutton (Chair)  
Councillor O'Boyle  
Councillor Skipper  
Councillor Townshend

Non-Voting Opposition

Representatives present:- Councillor Foster  
Councillor Taylor

Other Members present: Councillor Nellist

Employees Present:-

H. Abraham (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)  
J. Applegarth (Children, Learning and Young People's Directorate)  
S. Bennett (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)  
N. Clews (City Services and Development Directorate)  
D. Cockroft (City Services and Development Directorate)  
F. Collingham (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
C. Forde (Finance and Legal Services Directorate)  
C. Green (Director of Children, Learning and Young People)  
N. Hart (Chief Executives Directorate)  
L. Hughes (Finance and Legal Services Directorate)  
P. Jennings (Finance and Legal Services Directorate)  
G. Makin (Community Services Directorate)  
B. Messinger (Director of Customer and Workforce Services)  
J. Mosey (City Services and Development Directorate)  
J. Parry (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
D. Pearce (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)  
M. Reeves (Chief Executive)  
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
A. Walimia (City Services and Development Directorate)  
B. Walsh (Director of Community Services)  
A. West (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
C. West (Director of Finance and Legal Services)  
M. Yardley (Director of City Services and Development)

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 85. **Licensing Act 2003 – Revised Statement of Licensing Policy**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Community Services, which sought to advise Members of the results of the consultation on the draft revised Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003. The Cabinet noted that the Licensing Policy had to be renewed every three years and this policy needed to be approved and in place by 6th January 2011.

The report had also been considered by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee at their meeting on 10th November 2010. Details of their comments on the proposed amendments to the Policy were appended to the report.

Before determining policy for any three-year period, licensing authorities are required to carry out a wide consultation process. In addition to those consultees specified by the Act the Council had authority to include in the process any individuals or organisations it deemed appropriate. The revised Statement of Licensing Policy, which had been produced in compliance with revised government guidance, was attached to the report submitted as Appendix A. All the responsible authorities under that Act (West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service, Coventry City Council - Planning, Trading Standards, Health & Safety, Environmental Protection, Coventry's Safeguarding Children Board) and the Community Safety Team, had already been involved in the drafting of the revised policy.

The Cabinet Office had issued guidance and a Code of Practice on the policy consultation process, which recommending a 12-week consultation period, and local authorities were encouraged to follow it.

A new consultation document, Rebalancing the Licensing Act, issued by the Home Office at the end of July 2010 outlined major changes to the Licensing Act 2003, however, licensing authorities have been advised to continue with their revisions to current licensing policies as the dates for implementation of any legislative changes were not yet fixed.

The public consultation exercise finished on 22nd October, and had included mail shots to local businesses and key partners; mail shots to residents groups and trade organisations; some consultation through residents' forums and access through the City Council website.

The Cabinet noted that the Statement of Licensing Policy must be published by the 6th January 2011, in order to allow the Council to continue to carry out the functions of a licensing authority.

**RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the City Council be recommended to adopt the Revised Statement of Licensing Policy, attached as Appendix A to the report submitted, for the purposes of Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003.**

### 88. **Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011-2014**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Finance and Legal Services, which presented a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2011-2014 for adoption by the City Council. The previous strategy was approved in October 2009. The Strategy underpinned the medium term policy and financial planning process that was at the heart of setting the Council's revenue and capital budgets.

The Cabinet noted that the report had also been considered by the Finance, Corporate and Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board (Scrutiny Board 1) at their meeting on 24th November 2010. A briefing note detailing their recommendations was submitted to the Cabinet.

The Strategy was put forward at a time of massive financial challenges being faced both nationally and locally. The Spending Review (SR) announced by the Government on 20th October confirmed that local government faced headline cuts in resources in the region of 27% over four years. It was also clear from the large number of policy developments and reviews announced since the General Election that the Government was taking a new approach to public service provision. The MTFS submitted provided the financial framework to enable the Council to start to meet those financial challenges and the flexibility to continue to respond to the impacts of Government policy change over this period.

The Cabinet noted that the Council's ABC Transformation Programme was now into its second year and would continue to be one of the fundamental parts of the Council's response to the current financial and policy environment. However, the scale and pace of the changes facing the Council mean that further radical change is required affecting the range of services that the Council provides, the organisational structures of these services, relationships with its key partners and its human resources policies.

Notwithstanding the results of the Spending Review, uncertainty remained over much of the detail of how it will affect the Council including the actual Formula Grant settlement that it will receive. Therefore, the impact on the Council indicated in the report continued to be an estimate. More precise Formula Grant settlement and specific grant information was expected to be released over the coming weeks. The possibility remained that the impact would be so significant that the MTFS may need to be changed subsequently and this would be kept under review in the coming months.

In summary, the objectives of the Strategy were to provide the stable medium term financial base and sound financial planning framework required to enable the Council to meet the financial challenges posed by the Government's Spending Review; deliver its priorities and the ABC transformation agenda; and move towards a more strategic longer-term approach to delivering its revenue and capital plans and deliver effective financial management across all services.

The Strategy was appended to the report in full and was set within the context of the Council's commitment to delivering its vision, the Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy and the Corporate Plan. This would be particularly challenging at a time when a much lower level of funding would be available to local authorities through government grant. In order to meet this challenge and to strive to deliver better services, the Council indicated it was continuing to implement its ABC Transformation Programme. Over the

coming medium-term period the Programme would incorporate a number of fundamental developments to the way the Council works including the delivery of more efficient and flexible services, greater collaboration with city and sub-regional partners, taking some difficult decisions and increasing focus on the Council's core business and policy priorities.

**RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the City Council be recommended to approve the Strategy as the basis of its medium term financial planning process.**