

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY

22nd March, 2011

PRESENT

Lord Mayor (Councillor Kelsey)

Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Mulhall)

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

Apologies: Councillor Asif
Councillor Harrison
Councillor Sehmi (were received after the meeting)
Councillor Smith

Public Business

129. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th February, 2011, were agreed as a true record.

130. Finance Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 24th February, 2011, were noted.

131. Coventry Good Citizen Award

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

The Wyken Adventure Centre recently celebrated its 21st anniversary, and Mary Hart has been involved since day one. She has developed and managed the centre, giving her time and energy both selflessly and tirelessly.

The Adventure Centre provides the opportunity for children and young people aged between 5 and 24 to experience activities such as abseiling, archery, bouldering, music making, photography, First Aid and computers. When they reach the age of 18, the young people are encouraged to become more involved in the centre and become Trustees of the charity.

Mary has been the driving force behind the centre and has raised funds to enable the children safely to participate in and enjoy activities they would not normally experience. Places at the playschemes, which are organised by Mary and her team of volunteers in the school holidays, are sought after and are always well attended.

Mary fully deserves her recognition as a Good Citizen of Coventry for her determination to support the children in Wyken.

132. 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 those items involve 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
157	University of Warwick Science Park Limited - Disposal of Interest	3 and 4
158	CV One Services Review	3 and 4
159	Alderman's Green Primary School and Spon Gate Primary School Increasing Pupil Places 2011 and 2012	3 and 4

133. Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan

Following the devastation of the earthquake and Tsunami in Japan earlier this month, the Lord Mayor had written on behalf of the City of Coventry, to His Excellency the Japanese Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Mr. Hayashi, expressing the City Council's condolences for those who lost their lives and thoughts to the survivors whose homes and livelihoods have been destroyed.

There then followed a minute's silence.

134. Petitions

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

- (a) Request for the City Council and Partners to introduce robust and enforceable policies to put an end to illegal car sales on the street – 211 signatures, presented by Councillor O'Boyle.**
- (b) State of Roads – Butt Lane, Butchers Lane, Rectory Lane, Church Walk and surrounding roads – 225 signatures, presented by Councillor Williams.**
- (c) Risen Christ Day Care Centre – 249 signatures, presented by Councillor Mrs. Dixon.**
- (d) Spon End Play Area – 71 signatures, presented by Councillor Ridley.**
- (e) Longford Chemist – 613 signatures, presented by Councillor Mrs. Bigham.**
- (f) Water Fluoridation – 15 signatures, presented by Councillor Cliffe.**
- (g) Coventry Evening Telegraph Sports Ground – 412 signatures, presented by Councillor Clifford.**
- (h) Proposed pedestrian/cycle access to Dovedale Avenue from the Little Heath Development (Former Acetate Factory) – 50 signatures, presented by Councillor Mrs. Bigham.**
- (i) Government Funding to maintain and rebuild Richard Lee School – 2,064 signatures, presented by Councillor Mrs. Sweet.**
- (j) Objection to Proposed Off-Licence at 202 Keresley Road – 115 signatures, presented by Councillor Mrs. Lucas.**
- (k) Objection to an application for a Licence to retail alcohol from the former Shire Pharmacy Shop, Keresley Road – 13 signatures, presented by Councillor Gazey.**
- (l) Objection to Hot Food Takeaway – 28 signatures, presented by Councillor Nellist**

135. 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, having regard to the National Code of Local Government Conduct and the City Council's Constitution:

Minute 143 – Required Changes to Designated Polling Places

Personal Interest

Councillor Townshend (Ward Councillor in one of the affected wards)

Minutes 149 and 157– University of Warwick Science Park Limited (UWSP) – Disposal of Interests

Prejudicial Interest

Councillor Mrs. Bigham (Director)
Councillor Skipper (Director)

Councillors Mrs. Bigham and Skipper left the Chamber during the consideration of this item.

Personal Interest

Councillor Crookes

Minute 140 – Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for Public Health in England – Consultation Response to Proposals for a Public Health Outcomes Framework and the Funding and Commissioning Routes for Public Health

Personal Interest

Councillor Chater (Non-Executive Director PCT)

Minutes 150 and 158 – CV One Service Review

Prejudicial Interest

Councillor Bailey

Personal Interest – CV One Ambassadors

Councillor Chater
Councillor Foster
Councillor Kelsey
Councillor Lakha
Councillor Mutton
Councillor Noonan
Councillor Ridley
Councillor Sawdon
Councillor Skipper
Councillor Taylor
Councillor Townshend

Minute 152 – Government Proposals to Change the Local Government Pension Scheme

Personal Interest

Councillor Mrs. Lepoidevin (Former contributor to the scheme)
Councillor Williams (Former contributor to the scheme)

Minute 139 – Appointment of Honorary Recorder

Personal Interest

Councillor Townshend (Professional Capacity)

Minute 141 – Sexual Entertainment Venues

Personal Interest

Councillor Townshend (Professional Capacity)

Minute 142 – Localism Bill – New Arrangements with Respect to Governance of English Local Authorities (Elected Mayors)

Personal Interest

Councillor Townshend

Minute 154 – Question Time – Equal Pay

Personal Interest

Councillor Nellist (Trade Union Member)

RESOLVED that the Constitution Working Group be requested to consider the issue of City Council representatives on Companies and the requirement to declare prejudicial interests in financial matters relating to the company.

136. Use of Hand-held electronic devices in the Council Chamber

A point of order was raised by Councillor Chater on the issue of "Tweeting" and the use of hand-held electronic devices during Council meetings.

In accordance with Standing Order 4.1.84 it was moved and seconded that Standing Order 4.1.82 be suspended to allow the use of mobile phones during the meeting. Upon the vote being put it was lost.

RESOLVED that the issue be referred to the Constitution Working Group for their consideration.

137. Report of the Leader – Alteration to Cabinet Member Portfolio

In accordance with Part 3.2.5.3 of the Constitution, Councillor John Mutton, the Leader of the Council, informed the Council that, until further notice, all Licensing policy decisions under Executive Functions would be made by the Cabinet Member with the appropriate licensing portfolio with immediate effect.

138. Procedure for the Appointment of the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor

Further to Minute 29/10 of the Standards Committee and Minute 155/10, of Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Director of Customer and Workforce Services which sought approval to amend the Council's Constitution in order to formalise the procedure for the appointment of the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor.

The appointment of the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor was made each year at the Council's Annual General Meeting. There was no formal procedure within the current Constitution for the selection of the Councillor to hold this office. Selection was currently based on custom and practice of agreement between political groups. In recent years the office had alternated between Councillors within Conservative and Labour political groups.

It was proposed the office of Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor be offered by the Leader of the Council to the Councillor who had the longest service. If that Councillor declines the post then it would be offered to the next person in order of seniority. Any Councillor who declined the offer may in subsequent years take up the offer.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the Council approved the following addition to Part 2.5 of the Constitution:-

2.5.1.1 The office of Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor will be offered by the Leader of the Council to the Councillor who has the longest service and has not previously held the office. If that Councillor declines the offer, then it is offered to the next person in order of length of service. Any Councillor who declines the offer may take up the offer in subsequent years.

139. Appointment of Honorary Recorder for the City of Coventry

Further to Minute 91/10 of the Cabinet Member (Corporate and Neighbourhood Services), the Council considered a report of the Director of Customer and Workforce Services which detailed a proposal to appoint a new Honorary Recorder for the City of Coventry following the forthcoming retirement of the current holder of the role, His Honour Judge Christopher Hodson.

With effect from 30th March, 2011, the current Honorary Recorder for the City of Coventry, His Honour Judge Christopher Hodson, retires from this role as a result of his retirement as a Circuit Judge at Coventry Crown Court.

The position of Recorder had a long history and the position dates back to 1345 when the City of Coventry was granted a Royal Charter by King Edward III. During the mediaeval period, the duties of the Recorder were principally acting as general legal advisor to the City, having responsibility for keeping accurate records, and seeing that true judgements were made. It was not until 1882 that it became a requirement for a Recorder to be a qualified lawyer.

In 1971 the Courts Act brought about substantial changes to the Court system and abolished the Quarter Sessions. With the abolition of these Courts, the formal role of the Recorder ceased. The Act provided that all part-time Judges could be known as Recorders, but these would have no affiliation to any particular geographical area by virtue of their appointment. As a result of concerns expressed over the loss of this historic role,

the Government changed the proposed legislation so as to allow for the appointment of Honorary Recorders. Only a Circuit Judge or a Recorder was qualified to hold office as an Honorary Recorder.

The City Council appointed its first Honorary Recorder in August 1971 and there had been 6 holders of the post since that date. The post was mainly ceremonial in nature, but it did allow for the historic links between the City and the judiciary to be maintained. The Honorary Recorder supports the Lord Mayor by attending functions such as Holocaust Memorial Day, the Annual Meeting of the City Council, Freeman's Guild Annual Service, Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Sunday, Royal visits and invited to other city-wide events.

His Honour Judge Christopher Hodson was appointed to the post in 2007, but had had to relinquish it with effect from 30th March, 2011, as a result of his retiring from the Judicial Bench. Tributes were paid to Judge Hodson's distinguished service as Honorary Recorder at the Council meeting held on 15th February, 2011, and the contribution he had made to civic life.

The link between the Judiciary and the City was clearly an important one and one which should be maintained. It was, therefore, proposed that a new Honorary Recorder should be appointed. It was custom for the City Council to offer the position to a Circuit Judge or Recorder serving on the judicial circuit which served the City. As a result, an informal approach had been made to His Honour Judge Richard Griffith-Jones who was to become the Senior Circuit Judge in Coventry with effect from 7th March, 2011, and who would sit in the Crown Court in the City. His Honour Judge Griffith-Jones had indicated that he would be willing to accept the post of Honorary Recorder if it were to be offered to him.

RESOLVED that after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the City Council:-

- (1) approved the appointment of His Honour Judge Richard Griffith-Jones as Honorary Recorder for the City of Coventry with effect from 1st April, 2011.**
- (2) place on record their appreciation for the work undertaken by His Honour Judge Christopher Hodson during his appointment as Honorary Recorder.**

140. Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for Public Health in England – Consultation Response to Proposals for a Public Health Outcomes Framework and the Funding and Commissioning Routes for Public Health

With reference to Minute149/10 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Director of Community Services, which detailed the proposed response to two public consultation documents; 'Healthy lives, healthy people: Transparency in Outcomes' and 'Healthy lives, healthy people: consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health', which were published on 20th and 21st December 2010 respectively. The documents have been published in parallel with the Public Health White Paper and expand on and present more detail on the proposals.

The proposed outcomes framework had been designed to present the strategic outcomes for public health at national and local levels. The framework was designed to

align with the NHS and proposed adult social care outcome frameworks. The consultation sought views on the overall structure and scope of the framework and the range of outcome indicators themselves. The consultation on the proposed funding and commissioning routes for public health detailed which organisations would be responsible for commissioning aspects of public health activity. As outlined in the White Paper, a range of responsibilities were transferred to the local authority, to be funded from a ring-fenced public health budget allocation.

Flexibility to prioritise local needs would be a key factor in ensuring the successful implementation of a public health outcomes framework. The funding and commissioning proposals contained new and challenging remits for local authorities which would require a coordinated approach by all local partners, facilitated by the proposed health and wellbeing boards.

The consultation questions and proposed responses were appended to the report submitted.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, Council approved the proposed consultation response.

141. Sexual Entertainment Venues

Further to Minute 150/10 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Director of Community Services, which sought adoption of the provisions of Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended by Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009) in relation to the licensing of "sexual entertainment venues" in the City of Coventry with effect from 1st June 2011.

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Schedule 3 was amended by Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009. This introduced a new licensing regime for "sexual entertainment venues" such as lap dancing clubs.

In November 1982, the Council decided to adopt Part 2 and Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 which were the provisions for dealing with the licensing of sex establishments which, at that time, were sex shops and sex cinemas only. The Cabinet noted that currently, only one licence existed with the Authority under this legislation, for a sex shop.

Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 amended Schedule 3 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) 1982 to permit the Licensing Authority to license "sexual entertainment venues", where "relevant entertainment" was provided before a live audience for the financial gain of the organiser or the entertainer.

This brought the licensing of lap dancing clubs, pole dancing clubs and other similar venues under the regime set out in the 1982 Act. Coventry, as Licensing Authority had one such establishment licensed under the Licensing Act 2003. There were no grandfather rights available for existing operators entitling them to automatically obtain a 1982 Act licence. The legislation instead provided for a 12 month transitional period and during the first six months of the transitional period existing operators would have to apply for a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence but may continue to operate under a 2003 Act licence.

The Cabinet had noted that Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 came into force on 6th April 2010. Following this date local authorities were able to resolve to adopt Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act as amended by the 2009 Act so that it had effect in their area.

If the Council failed to adopt Schedule 3 in the way described above within twelve months of the new legislation taking effect, (by 6th April, 2011) it must then carry out a full public consultation exercise on whether it should adopt sexual entertainment venue licensing powers.

The costs of licensing would be met from fees, although there would be some minor advertising costs at the outset.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the Council:-

- (1) Adopts the provisions of Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended by Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009) in relation to the licensing of "sexual entertainment venues" in the City of Coventry. Such provisions come into force from 1st June 2011.**
- (2) Delegate to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee and the Director of Community Services the powers to discharge the Council's functions for licensing "sex establishments" in accordance with the following arrangements;**
 - (a) First grant or revocation of licences – Licensing and Regulatory Committee;**
 - (b) Renewal, transfer or variations of licences where objections are made – Licensing and Regulatory Committee;**
 - (c) Renewal, transfer or variations of licences where no objections are made – Director of Community Services;**
 - (d) Granting waivers – Licensing and Regulatory Committee;**
 - (e) Administration, entry / inspection, enforcement – Director of Community Services (except that prosecutions shall be authorised by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee).**
- (3) Delegate the approval of a "sex establishment policy", including setting fee levels and adopting standard licence conditions to the Cabinet Member (Corporate and Neighbourhood Services) and an Advisory Panel be established for this purpose and that the relevant Ward Councillor be invited to sit on the Panel.**
- (4) Authorise the Director of Community Services to publish notice of the resolution to adopt Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended by Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009) in accordance with section 2 of the 1982 Act.**

142. Localism Bill – New Arrangements with Respect to Governance of English Local Authorities (Elected Mayors)

Further to Minute 151/10 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Director of Customer and Workforce Services which provided an update on the progress of the Localism Bill provisions for Elected Mayors within local authorities from 2012 and to advise on likely timescales to introduce Shadow Elected Mayor arrangements from May 2011 in 12 English cities including Coventry.

The Localism Bill was still in its passage through Parliament so was not yet in force. It was currently at the 2nd Committee stage in the House of Commons, as of 17th February 2011. The provisions relating to Elected Mayors and Shadow Elected Mayors would be implemented once the Bill received royal assent which was currently estimated to be approximately November 2011.

Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Localism Bill would introduce a new Part 1A to the Local Government Act 2000 that would enable elected Mayors/shadow Mayors to be implemented.

The Government proposal was for a number of major cities (possibly 12) in England to operate a shadow Mayor form of leadership, without any Head of Paid Service responsibilities, before a referendum is put to the local electorate in May 2012. This proposal would include Coventry.

The Shadow Mayor or Elected Mayor (as and if the case may be) would have varying degrees of powers and responsibilities depending upon which stage in the process the new governance arrangements are at. There were three key stages as follows:

- (a) A Shadow Mayor being imposed upon Coventry following the Localism Bill receiving Royal Assent and the Secretary of State providing an Order to that effect;
- (b) The powers available to the Shadow Mayor following a Referendum, the outcome of which would support an Elected Mayor form of governance; and
- (c) The powers available to the Elected Mayor once formally elected.

The report submitted provided detailed information on each of these stages and the implication of each stage.

In considering the report, the Council noted that Cabinet were of the view that a letter should also be sent by the Cabinet Member (Corporate and Neighbourhood Services), on behalf of the Council, to the Secretary of State to inform him that neither the City or the Council support the proposals and believe that the funds required to implement these proposals should be committed to the provision of frontline services.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the Council:-

- (1) Consider the progress of the Localism Bill with respect to the arrangements for Elected Mayor and Shadow Mayor arrangements in**

local authorities.

- (2) Agree to the Cabinet Member (Corporate and Neighbourhood Services) writing to the Secretary of State on behalf of the Council to indicate that the proposals are not supported.**

Note: In respect of the above resolution, 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 resolution were as follows:

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

Councillor Williams
Lord Mayor

Result: 43 for
7 against
0 abstentions

143. Required Changes to Designated Polling Places

Further to Minute 152/10 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Director of Customer and Workforce Services which sought approval for changes to designated polling places. The Cabinet noted that the matter had been considered by the Cabinet Member (Corporate and Neighbourhood Services) Electoral Arrangements Advisory Panel on 17th February 2011.

As part of the arrangements for the elections to be held on 5th May 2011, the Returning Officer was required to establish a polling station within the designated polling place approved by the Council. In undertaking this work it was identified that two of these polling places were no longer available. Ward Councillors for the wards affected (Lower Stoke and Longford) were informed of the loss of a current polling place and were asked for any proposals for alternatives that they would wish the Returning Officer to investigate and report to the Cabinet Member (Corporate and Neighbourhood Services) Electoral Arrangements Advisory Panel. The report submitted identified the criteria set by the Advisory panel to assist officers in investigating alternative proposals.

The Council noted that Councillor McNicholas (Lower Stoke) and Councillors Duggins and Harvard (Longford) requested that portacabins to be placed within the polling districts. However, one of the criteria specified by the Advisory Panel was that all Portacabin locations be reviewed for more suitable alternative arrangements. They had agreed that portacabins were generally not suitable venues for polling purposes, as they had limited access for electors with mobility problems and they did not provide adequate facilities for staff under the Workplace, Health, Safety and Welfare Regulations.

However, the Advisory Panel agreed that a portacabin should be located in each of the polling districts (Jg - Lower Stoke Ward and Hi - Longford Ward) and that the whole polling district should be designated as the polling place. This would allow employees sufficient time to investigate possible locations and to consult with Ward Councillors regarding suitable sites. It was also agreed that these arrangements should be reviewed after the elections in May 2011.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the Council approved the revised polling places for polling district Jg in Lower Stoke and Hi in Longford.

144. Equality Strategy 2011 – 2014

Further to Minute 153/10 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive, which sought approval for the Council's Equality Strategy 2011 – 2014, which had been produced taking into consideration the new Equality Act which received Royal Assent in April 2010. The new Equality Strategy would run for three years and meet the requirements under the specific duty of the new Equality Act. The implementation date for the specific duty was April 2011.

The Council's Equality Strategy 2007–2010 brought together in one place all the key equality outcomes and activities from the Council's Race Equality Scheme, Disability Equality Scheme and the Gender Equality Scheme. On 25th November 2009, Cabinet Member (Finance and Value for Money) agreed a process to manage the change from the former equalities legislation to the new requirements in the Equality Act. It was agreed that the Council's existing Equality Schemes and Equality Strategy would be rolled forward until April 2011 and that the existing Equality Strategy Action Plan would continue to be reviewed and updated annually to meet the requirements of previous legislation until the new Equality Act was implemented.

The new Act covered a wide range of equality issues including age, pregnancy / maternity / breastfeeding, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, religion or belief and sexual orientation. The Act was simpler, more outcome-focused, proportionate, less bureaucratic, and allowed for local determination of need. The approach Coventry City Council had taken to the promotion of equality of opportunity and the outcome-focused approach adopted in the Equality Strategy 2007–2010 and accompanying action plan meant that it was well prepared for these new requirements as they mirrored the approach taken in the new specific duty. The new Equality Act no longer required public bodies like the Council to produce separate equality schemes as required under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2007, Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and Equality Act 2006.

The Council had been involved in the consultation process to identify the key priorities in the Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). The key priorities would also inform the development of a new three year Corporate Plan for the Council for 2011/12-2013/14. The equality issues identified through the consultation were incorporated into the Council's Equality Strategy 2011–2014 which would prepare the Council for meeting its obligations on the specific duty. The Council's Equality Outcomes would be informed by the results of the consultation and these would be included and agreed by the City Council in the Council's new Corporate Plan.

The Cabinet noted that, to further mainstream equalities, the new Equality Strategy's three year plan placed an emphasis on progress reporting through the Council's key strategies and plans.

The new Equality Act 2010 required public bodies like the Council to consider the impact on equalities when making decisions. The final statutory guidance on the equality analysis was expected to be published by April 2011 and the Council would refine its approach to equality analysis when this was available.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the Council approved the Equality Strategy 2011-2014 as set out in appendix 1 of the report submitted.

145. Developing the New Vision and Values for Coventry City Council

Further to Minute 154/10 of the Cabinet the Council considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive, which proposed the adoption of a new vision and values to reflect the current challenges facing the City and to set out clearly what the Council aims to achieve for Coventry over the next three years.

The City Council's vision set out what the Council aimed to achieve for Coventry and the values explain the considerations that guided the Council's actions and decision

making. Together the Council's vision and values formed the basis of the City Council's Corporate Plan which provided the strategic direction and priorities for the Council and informed the Council's decision making and allocation of resources.

The current vision and values for the City Council were adopted formally by the City Council at its meeting on 21st June 2005. These provided the basis for the Council's Corporate Plan and the development of the Council's priorities; strategies and plans for the last six years. These had been supplemented by a set of corporate and management objectives which outlined what the Council intended to do to turn the vision into reality.

The Council's current three year Corporate Plan runs until the end of March 2011 and was due to be replaced by a new three year plan due to be considered and adopted by Council in June 2011. It was therefore time to review and amend the Council's vision to ensure that it met the current challenges facing the City and set out clearly what the Council aimed to achieve over the next three years.

The proposed new Council vision and values would form the basis of the Corporate Plan 2011/12 – 2013/14 and the Council's performance management framework would be revised for the new Corporate Plan to ensure that the Council's new vision and priorities would be delivered through the it's strategies and plans, so that progress can be measured and managed.

It was recommended that the City Council should adopt a new vision and values as set out below:

Coventry - proud to be a city that works...

- ...for jobs and growth
- ...for better pavements, streets and roads
- ...to support and celebrate our young people
- ...to protect our most vulnerable residents

We're proud to do this by....

- ...being honest, fair and transparent when we make decisions
- ...working with residents, communities and partners to get things done
- ...celebrating all that's good about our city and its future

The Cabinet had noted that, once adopted, the new vision and values would form the basis for the development of a new three year Corporate Plan with priorities for the Council. The new Corporate Plan was due to be considered and adopted in June 2011 and would inform the Council's strategy and planning for the next three years. Corporate performance measures and targets would be developed to track progress on delivering the vision and would be reported on a six monthly basis to Cabinet and Scrutiny and annually to Council.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the Council approve and adopt the new vision and values to inform Coventry City Council's strategic

direction, priority setting, and decision making.

146. A Jobs Strategy for Coventry

Further to Minute 156/10 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development, which outlined plans to lead a strategy for creating new job opportunities and set out the financial commitment the Council proposes to make to lead this work. The services in this area had already lost funding as national Government grant programmes had closed and the report detailed the City Council's commitment to invest £5.3 million a year into this work and to seek to bring in additional income and grant to deliver an overall programme of £6.3 million a year.

Prior to the start of the recession in 2007, Coventry enjoyed a period of rising employment, incomes and new investment. The City attracted a lot of new people and between 1999 and 2009 the population grew by 8,000.

Since the 2007 banking crash and consequent global recession Coventry has fared less well. By June 2009, as the impact of the recession hit Coventry, 11,152 people were claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). This was nearly double the amount of claimants in May 2008 (6,602). At the start of 2010, this rate increased further, reaching a total of 11,518 JSA claimants in Coventry (5.6% of the total workforce of the City). The Cabinet noted that the current JSA claimant rate stood at 4.9%, equating to 10,088 residents (January 2011), which was still well above levels experienced prior to the recession.

It was further noted that registered unemployment no longer gave a full account of the problem of people who wanted to work but could not find a job. There were many people in Coventry who wanted to work but were not claiming JSA and the problem of worklessness was probably larger than that of registered unemployment. In Coventry in 2010, only 65.1% of the working age population were actually in a job, and recorded worklessness reached rates of up to 15.6% (32,140 residents).

Looking forward to the year ahead, employment prospects in the City were, at best, mixed. The international economy was growing and there was a return to a little more confidence in the private sector. However, in the public sector the impact of Government expenditure cuts was beginning to be experienced. It had been estimated that the overall reduction in public expenditure planned by the Government over the next four years would lead directly to the loss of a minimum of 2,800 public sector jobs in the City by 2014/15. At the same time the Government was targeting the achievement of reduced welfare expenditure. The report indicated that currently, around £881m of welfare expenditure found its way into the local economy in Coventry each year. It was estimated this would fall by 5.6% or £49.3 million over the next four years. At present there was no evidence of the level of resurgence in the private sector that would be needed to generate the new job opportunities the City needed.

Although there had been a major restructuring of the City's economy, Coventry had continued to experience a steady improvement over the past few years as its' economy begun to rebuild and diversify. Coventry needed to make the best of the opportunities it had as a City to capitalize on its potential for economic growth. Never had a strategy for job creation been more needed. The Jobs Strategy would enable the Council to be more innovative in response to local needs and would pave the way for it to focus on its locally identified priorities, enabling it to influence the future of the City through facilitating economic growth, creating new jobs and access to these jobs for local people.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the Council:-

- (1) Agreed the Jobs Strategy as the Council's contribution to bringing new job opportunities to the city.**
- (2) Agreed to promote the actions and opportunities outlined in the strategy and seek the support of other stakeholders in the City and sub region to help achieve the objectives of the Jobs Strategy.**
- (3) Approved funding proposals for the strategy outlined in this report for 2011/12, and provisionally for 2012/13 and 2013/14, subject to funding availability.**
- (4) Referred the report to Scrutiny Board 3 for inclusion on their work programme, requesting it to consult with partners and stakeholders on the proposals set out in the Jobs Strategy and to identify opportunities for joint action to deliver the Strategy.**

147. Representation to Government to Make Funding Available for Employment Support Initiatives

Further to Minute 157/10 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Board (Scrutiny Board 3), which recommended that the Council make representations to the Government to provide more funding for employment support initiatives, given the benefits which such initiatives bring both to individuals and to the areas in which they live.

The Economy, Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Board recently discussed the work and achievements of the Economy, Learning, Skills and Employment Theme Group of the Coventry Partnership. The Board also discussed some of the policy changes within employment support and as a result of this it decided to make the recommendation that the Council make representations to the Government to provide more funding for employment support initiatives.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the Council make representations to the Government to provide more funding for employment support initiatives, given the benefits which such initiatives bring both to individuals and to the areas in which they live.

148. West Midlands Local Transport Plan 3 – Final Endorsement

With reference to Minute 158/10 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development, which sought approval of the West Midlands Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3). The LTP3 set out a transport strategy for the West Midlands Metropolitan area and would be used to inform local decisions on transport improvement projects and it was the main mechanism by which the City Council received funding for transport schemes. The Cabinet had noted that, although LTP3 was now the responsibility of the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA)/Centro to produce, each local authority in the West Midlands was being asked to endorse the plan as it would have responsibility for many aspects of its delivery.

The 2006 West Midlands Local Transport Plan (LTP) would end in March 2011. A new plan was being produced by the ITA/Centro in accordance with the 2008 Local Transport Act. As a partner in the delivery of LTP3, the City Council had been asked by the ITA to endorse the LTP3.

Overall 198 consultation responses were submitted to Centro from across the West Midlands Metropolitan area on the draft LTP3 during December 2010 and January 2011. Coventry's formal response to the draft LTP3 was reported to Cabinet on 8th February 2011 (Minute 127/10 refers) and that report set out the objectives and themes in the new Plan. The final version of LTP3 incorporated most of these comments into the strategy in readiness for the final endorsement of the Plan. This included an amended section in the main strategy on the proposed High Speed Rail project (HS2) which now clearly recognised the fact that Coventry City Council formally objected to HS2 on 7th December 2010.

The City Council would receive grant funding each year through the LTP process and the first settlement for the new LTP3 period was received in December 2010. As a result of the recent revised governance arrangements for LTP's, future funding would be allocated quite differently. Grant funding for LTP integrated transport block schemes, such as walking and cycling schemes, would be allocated directly to the ITA/Centro rather than individual districts. It was therefore up to the ITA to decide how to distribute this funding locally. Maintenance funding would also go direct to the ITA, but would be transferred directly back to the district highway authorities provided that it was spent on schemes which meet LTP objectives.

Major schemes over £5m would continue to be funded through individual bids to the Government. Coventry's current priorities are the NUCKLE rail scheme between Coventry and Nuneaton with a new station at the Ricoh Arena, Connecting Coventry involving transport improvements around Coventry Station and a rapid transit network titled SPRINT.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the Council endorsed the new West Midlands Local Transport Plan (LTP3).

149. University of Warwick Science Park Ltd (UWSP) – Disposal of Interest

Further to Minute 161/10 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development, which sought approval to dispose of the Council's Company and property interests at the University of Warwick Science Park. A corresponding private report detailing financially confidential aspects of the proposals was also submitted to this meeting (Minute 157 below refers).

The University of Warwick Science Park Ltd (UWSP) was the operating company which owned and operated the Science Park adjacent to the University of Warwick in Coventry. It was jointly owned by Coventry City Council, the University of Warwick, Warwickshire County Council (WCC), West Midlands Enterprise Ltd (WME) and the seven West Midlands Districts, on whose behalf the Council holds shares in trust. To date the company had not distributed a dividend to its shareholders. The Council held a number of leasehold and freehold interests (detailed in Appendix 1 of the report submitted) and stakes in a number of related property joint ventures (outlined in Appendix 2) on the Science Park with associated rental income streams and received interest on loans made

to the company.

The Cabinet noted that the Science Park was a mature joint venture that had been fully developed on its current site and the Council's property interest joint ventures would soon require significant capital investment for refurbishment in order for the buildings to retain their attractiveness to technology businesses. As part of the Council's proactive management of its company investments, employees have considered options for the Council's UWSP investment. The Council could continue to hold its investment and receive no return on the shares and face capital pressures in the near future to maintain its property rental income streams. Alternatively, in order to realise value and to derive maximum regeneration benefits from the UWSP activities going forward, the Council could dispose of its investment to a partner willing to drive further the activities of the company.

The report indicated there were restrictions on the Council's shares which limit the sale to one of the other public sector shareholders. Employees had been in discussions with the University of Warwick, who had indicated an ability to continue to extend regeneration benefits from continuing to operate the Science Park and make the necessary capital investment in the company, if they were to purchase the Council's interests, plus the interests of the other shareholders – WCC, WME and the seven West Midlands Districts. The Council had commissioned external valuations of the share and asset holdings to support these discussions.

Whilst these discussions have been held, the University had also expressed interest in acquiring the freehold interest of 'Westwood.' A map of the Westwood site was submitted as Appendix 3 to the report. The Westwood site was held from the Council on an extendable peppercorn lease with 66 years unexpired and was used for academic purposes and student residences. It also included the athletics track that is the home of Godiva Harriers. Terms for this acquisition were included in the Heads of Offer and included ongoing protection for the continued use of the athletics track in line with its current useage.

Heads of Offer were in place with the University of Warwick for purchase of the Council's interests including shares, property and loans, subject to final due diligence by both parties and the relevant Council, WME, WCC and University approvals.

It was noted that the Heads of Offer excluded the Council's joint venture interest in Binley Innovation Centre, a satellite business incubator on the Binley Business Park, which the Science Park would continue to manage on behalf of the joint venture partners (the Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Science Park).

In accordance with paragraph 4.1.84 of the City Council's Constitution, it was moved by Councillor Mutton and seconded by Councillor McNicholas and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to enable a decision on items 9.3.11 and 13.1.1 to be taken together. It was also agreed that the amendment moved by Councillor Mrs. Dixon and seconded by Councillor Crookes would be dealt with collectively under the item under private business (Minute 157 below refers).

Note: In respect of the above, 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 proposal were as follows:-

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

Result: 25 for
 21 against
 0 abstentions

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, and subject to consideration of the private report on this matter, the Council approved the transfer of the following to the University of Warwick:

- (1) **The Council's company interests:**
 - (a) **The Council's shareholdings in the UWSP (company number 1659656) comprising 12146 voting shares and 480 non voting shares.**
 - (b) **The shareholdings in the UWSP (company number 1659656) held on Trust on behalf of the seven West Midlands Districts comprising 1084 shares.**
 - (c) **The relinquishment of the Council's directorships of the UWSP and University of Warwick Science Park Concepts Ltd and trustee directorships in the University of Warwick Science Park Foundation Ltd.**

- (d) **The transfer of the Council's loans expiring in 2011/12, 2014 and 2016/17 to the University of Warwick, followed by redemption of these loans as part of this transaction.**
- (2) The Council's property interests in the Science Park:**
 - (a) **The Council's long leasehold interests in the property joint ventures undertaken with the UWSP and comprising a 54% share in the Vanguard Centre, 50% shares in the Viscount Centres (1&2), Sovereign Court (1&2) and the Sun Building and 31% of Riley Court.**
 - (b) **The freehold of that part of the UWSP in Council ownership subject to the existing long lease to the UWSP expiring in 2132 at a peppercorn.**
 - (c) **The transfer of ancillary freehold land adjacent to the Science Park, known as 'Silverstone', off Kirby Corner Road and comprising 0.71 acres, with vacant possession.**
 - (d) **The transfer of the freehold of the Westwood Site subject to protection for the athletics track.**
 - (e) **Subject to final due diligence on behalf of the University of Warwick and the Council, delegate authority to the Director of City Services and Development and the Director of Finance and Legal Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member (City Development) to approve the final price and approve the final transfers, leasehold agreements and all ancillary documents which are necessary to finalise contractual and commercial completion in accordance with the agreed financial parameters (as per section 2 of the private report) and ensuring that the disposal is achieved by the most effective tax structure for the Council.**

150. CV One Service Review

Further to Minute 166/10 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development, which sought approval to transfer all remaining services under the CV One contract back in house by March 2012 and as such to put in place a grant aid agreement during the transition period to enable a managed and phased handover for both parties. A corresponding private report detailing financially confidential aspects of the proposals was also submitted to this meeting (Minute 158 below refers)

In light of the unprecedented spending cuts now affecting all areas of the Council, the CV One contract had been identified for review with a view to delivering savings. The report indicated that the current contract provided for CV One to deliver services within the City Centre in relation to Car park management; Highways; Cleansing; Maintenance of designated sites; Precinct Management; Phoenix Initiative Maintenance; Public Conveniences; Lighting (Bull Yard and Phoenix); Access and Mobility; Events; Promotion; Safety and Security; and Business Development.

CV One had delivered the city centre management services since 2002 and had

performed well supporting the Council in driving efficiencies, and had, to date, made cost savings in the region of £0.5m.

Initially, in November 2010, Cabinet had approved further work aimed at reviewing and then transferring two elements under the existing contract back under Council control. Following more recent discussions between the Council and the CV One Board, the approach proposed was a full managed transfer of services under the CV One contract back to the Council by 2012. Phase 1 of this transfer would take back car park management and events by 1st April 2011 as previously planned, and it was planned that £0.5m of savings would be achieved in 2011/12.

The main implication for the Council in respect to the transfer of services back in house was the TUPE obligations which affect any employees who are wholly or substantially engaged on services being delivered as part of the Council Contract. The Council's HR team had been involved in establishing the TUPE implications of the transfer of car park management and events services and the staff affected. These implications had been shared and were in the process of being agreed with CV One. Subject to further consultation, affected staff in relation to car park management and events would transfer to the Council on the 1st April 2011.

In order to continue the delivery of events and progress the Godiva Festival for 2011, it was agreed that the three specific events staff from CV One would be client managed by the Council and based within the Communications and Events team. This took effect from the 17th January 2011.

With the transfer of services back in house, there was also the requirement for a full asset transfer agreement. The agreement would include the inventory of assets, key staff and a partial surrender of New Union Street offices. In addition, the events licence would also be reassigned back to the Council.

At this time, the Council would usually receive and approve a 3 year business plan from CV One. However, the approach recommended would mean that the Council would not extend the CV One contract post March 2012 but progresses a full transfer of services back to the Council.

As part of this process the Council intended to work very closely with CV One and its Board to develop a detailed transition plan for the transfer. This would include mapping out the financial and legal steps that were required to achieve this aim. In order to bring an orderly closure of the contract between the Council and CV One, it was proposed that the extension of the contract was not implemented but a grant aid agreement between the Council and CV One adopted to cover the remaining services during the transition period. It was recommended that approval be given for both parties to enter into the grant aid agreement with specified outputs that CV One must comply with. This work would supersede the requirement for the Council and CV One to agree a 3 year business plan.

In addition, it was considered necessary to support CV One in the transitional period in order to maintain continuity of services for the City and to achieve the long term objective of additional savings once the remaining CV One services were brought back in house. In order to achieve this, it was proposed that a limited amount of additional funding be provided under the terms of a grant aid agreement to CV One. Although Council expenditure was recommended, the overall package represented good value for money for the Council, because it assumed that the injection of cash resources up front would release ongoing savings.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, and subject to consideration of the private report on this matter, the Council:-

- (1) Approved a reduction of the CV One grant in 2011/12 and associated modification of the contract (and subsequently the grant aid agreement) to remove car park management and events. This transfer was associated with the delivery of savings of £0.5m built into the medium term financial strategy for 2011/12. This savings figure was likely to increase as the transition plan develops.**
- (2) Agreed to exit the contract with CV One and replace it with a grant aid agreement as an interim period arrangement, whilst remaining services transfer back to the Council.**
- (3) Approved the development of a phased transition plan, in agreement with CV One, to achieve full transfer of all remaining services provided under the CV One contract. The determination of the timing and services transferring within the transition plan to be delegated to the Director of City Services and Development and the Director of Finance and Legal Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member (City Development) and the Leader of the Council.**
- (4) Agreed to delegate authority to the Director of City Services and Development and the Director of Finance and Legal Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member (City Development) and the Leader of the Council, to agree the necessary financial means to achieve the objective of full service transfer as outlined in section 2 of the report submitted, limited to a maximum figure as detailed in the corresponding private report. This would be linked to agreed measures in the grant aid agreement.**

151. Alderman's Green Primary School and Spon Gate Primary School Increasing Pupil Places 2011 and 2012

Further to Minute 164/10 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People, which sought approval of proposals for the rebuilding of Alderman's Green Primary School and expansion works to Spon Gate Primary School as part of the Increasing Pupil Places 2011 & 2012 programmes. A corresponding private report detailing financially confidential aspects of the proposals was also submitted to this meeting (Minute 159 below refers). The Cabinet had noted that there was an error in the report, as it was suggested that Spon Gate Primary School was located within the St Michael's ward of the City as opposed to the Sherbourne ward.

In November 2009 the City Council authorised design work to commence for Alderman's Green Primary School in January 2010 to meet the requirements of the Increasing Pupil Places Programme 2012. Following Official Journal of the European Community (OJEU) notices for a partnering design team, six architect-led teams were invited to submit tenders. The Headteacher and Chair of Governors formed part of the interview panel to select the successful team and IID Architects were appointed in April 2010. A partnering contractor was also selected following an OJEU notice and invitation to six contractors to submit tenders. The Headteacher and Chair of Governors took part in

the interview process and Wates Construction were appointed in June 2010. During the summer and autumn terms the design team had developed proposals following consultation with the school governors, staff, pupils and community. Details of the accommodation to be provided and layout were agreed by the partnering team in accordance with DfE Building Bulletin 99 briefing framework for Primary School Projects and area guidelines for schools. A planning application was submitted during November 2010 and the scheme was approved on 3rd February 2011. This approval was subject to a 21 day statutory referral period to the Secretary of State as the scheme partly encroached on to green belt land.

The rebuilding of Alderman's Green Primary School was proposed to replace the existing 'Hills Mark 2' building which had serious structural problems beyond economic repair and would also provide 45 additional school places per year group as part of the Increasing Pupil Places Programme 2012. Construction work was planned to commence in May 2011 for completion in July 2012. The new school would be operational in September 2012.

Spon Gate Primary School, on the outskirts of the City Centre, was to expand from a one form of entry (30 pupils per year group) to a two form of entry (60 pupils per year group). The proposals included the demolition of the existing derelict Site Services Officer's house and adjoining canopy structure to make way for a wildlife garden and external teaching space. The refurbishment of the Doe Bank building, located on the north west of the school's site, would also be incorporated within the scheme, together with an external terrace and a covered walkway linking the two main buildings.

Following a competitive tender process during July 2010, Vagdia and Holmes Architects were appointed to work with all stakeholders to establish and develop a brief to ensure Spon Gate Primary school was ready for a 60 pupil intake from September 2011. The scheme would be competitively tendered to local contractors and would follow a traditional form of procurement. The school and school's governing body were in full support of the current proposals which would also improve the site's security and means of safely using the external spaces. A planning application was submitted and validated on 28th January 2011 and a decision was expected by 25th March 2011.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, and subject to consideration of the private report on this matter, the Council:

- (1) Approved plans for the rebuilding of Alderman's Green Primary School and expansion works to Spon Gate Primary School as part of the Increasing Pupil Places 2011 and 2012 programmes**
- (2) Approved total capital expenditure for the rebuilding of Alderman's Green Primary School and the expansion of Spon Gate Primary School to be funded by DfE capital allocations for 2011 - 12 and other funding sources.**
- (3) Agreed to appropriate the Doe Bank and Moat Buildings shown on the plan attached in appendix 3 of the report to education use.**

152. Government Proposals to Change the Local Government Pension Scheme

Further to Minute 167/10 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a joint report of

the Director of Customer and Workforce Services and the Director of Finance and Legal Services, which sought approval to make representations to the Government in respect of proposals to change the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The Government published the Hutton Report on Pensions Provision on 10th March 2011. The report made a number of recommendations for the future of public service pensions in the UK including proposals that included the Local Government Pension Scheme. The report stated principles for public service pensions included the expectation that pensions' provision should be fair, adequate, sustainable and affordable.

Ahead of the report publication, a number of discussion documents had been in circulation in connection with the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). These had been the subject of debate amongst the pensions' community, commentators on public sector issues, public sector trades unions and representative organisations such as the Local Government Association (LGA). The key focus of recent debate had centred upon proposals to require some members of the LGPS to increase their employee contributions to the scheme by between 50% and 100% above existing levels.

Most analysts recognise the need for long-term reform of pensions on a national level although there was a wide range of views on the best methods of doing this. A number of changes had already been implemented in the LGPS in the last few years or were in the process of being put in place. The view of LGPS administrators is that these changes would continue to ensure the affordability of the scheme.

The scale of the proposed increases in employee contributions outlined in the report was so large that concerns were now being expressed that this would result in wide-scale opt-out of employees from the LGPS. This in turn was likely to result in a very real possibility that the scheme's viability would come under threat. This possibility was the key theme of a letter from the LGA to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, sent on 16th February 2011. The report submitted presented the current facts and officer analysis on these issues and requested that the Council consider whether they wish to support the LGA's stance and set out proposed representations.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the Council agreed to the proposed representations to Government as detailed in Section 2.3 of the report submitted and to authorise the Director of Finance and Legal Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to send a letter containing the key messages indicated and communicate with the local Trades Unions as detailed.

153. The Coventry Award of Merit

Further to Minute 104/10 of the Cabinet Member (Corporate and Neighbourhood Services), the Council considered a report of the Director of Customer and Workforce Services which recommended possible recipients of the Coventry Award of Merit from the Cabinet Member (Corporate and Neighbourhood Services) Coventry Award of Merit Advisory Panel.

The Coventry Award of Merit was established by the City Council in the 1960s as a means of acknowledging and honouring personal behaviour reflecting the highest ideals of citizenship or outstanding performance in any field of human endeavour which enhanced the good name of Coventry and affords inspiration to its citizens.

The Award takes the form of a citation under the common seal together with a presentation of a medallion pendant from a ribbon in the City's colours. The full Terms of reference were appended to the report.

The Coventry Award of Merit had not been presented since 2002. It was now proposed that the Award be revived to recognise contributions to modern society which accord with its original high ideals.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the report and matters raised at the meeting, the City Council grants the Coventry Award of Merit to the following recipients;

- Gary Croshaw** for services to West Midlands Police Special Constabulary
- Joe Elliott** for services to Coventry City Football Club, sports and charity
- Professor Sudhesh Kumar** for services to medical research and treatment of diabetes
- David Moorcroft OBE** for services to athletics
- John Mutton** for services to the International Children's Games
- Les Ratcliffe** for services to the motor industry

154. 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 Skinner	Councillor Mrs. Bigham	Whitefriars Housing
2.	Councillor Williams	Councillor A. Khan	Coach Parking in the CityCentre
(Note: Councillor A. Khan undertook to respond to Councillor Williams in writing)			
3.	Councillor Ridley	Councillor Townshend	Lack of Response by Contact Centre
4.	Councillor Sawdon	Councillor Mutton	High Speed 2
5.	Councillor Ridley	Councillor A. Khan	Lake View Park
6.	Councillor Mrs. Dixon	Councillor Mrs. Bigham	Charity Charges by CV One
7.	Councillor Nellist	Councillor Kelly	Tile Hill Wood Consultation
8.	Councillor Nellist	Councillor Kelly	Land used by Blue Coat School

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|----------------------|---|
| 9. | Councillor Sawdon | Councillor Mutton | Council representation on CV One |
| 10. | Councillor Lee | Councillor Mutton | Olympics 2012 |
| 11. | Councillor Lapsa | Councillor Townshend | Freedom of Information – Timescale for Response |

155. Statement by the Leader of the Council

There was no statement by the Leader of the Council.

156. Debate – Rise in VAT from 17.5% to 20%

Councillor McNicholas moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Mrs. Sweet:-

"This Council condemns the rise in VAT from 17.5% to 20% introduced by the Tory led Coalition on 4th January, 2011. This increase ignores the hardship this causes to hard pressed families at a time of low or no wage increases, escalating energy, food and petrol prices."

RESOLVED that the motion as set out above be adopted.

Private Business

157. University of Warwick Science Park Ltd (UWSP) – Disposal of Interest

Further to Minute 149 above, and Minute 169/10 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development, which detailed financially confidential information in relation to the proposed disposal of the Council's Company and property interests at the University of Warwick Science Park

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Mrs. Dixon, seconded by Councillor Crookes and lost:

"That the Recommendations be amended by the insertion of the following additional Recommendation:-

10. That the financial receipts from company and property interests be used for the benefit of the people of Coventry, namely the rebuilding of Richard Lee School in Coventry."

Note: In respect of the above, 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 Andrews Councillor Blundell	Councillor Mrs. Abbott Councillor Auluck	

Councillor Charley	Councillor Bains
Councillor Cliffe	Councillor Chater
Councillor Crookes	Councillor Clifford
Councillor Mrs. Dixon	Councillor Duggins
Councillor Foster	Councillor Harvard
Councillor Gazey	Councillor Kelly
Councillor Hammon	Councillor A. Khan
Councillor Mrs. Johnson	Councillor Lakha
Councillor Lapsa	Councillor Ms. Lancaster
Councillor Lee	Councillor Mrs. Lucas
Councillor Mrs. Lepoidevin	Councillor McNicholas
Councillor Noonan	Councillor Maton
Councillor Ridley	Councillor Mulhall
Councillor Sawdon	Councillor J. Mutton
Councillor Skinner	Councillor M. Mutton
Councillor Taylor	Councillor Nellist
Councillor Williams	Councillor O'Boyle
Lord Mayor	Councillor Ruane
	Councillor Singh
	Councillor Mrs. Sweet
	Councillor Townshend
	Councillor Walsh
	Councillor Welsh

Result: 20 for
 25 against
 0 abstentions

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the Council approved the transfer of the following to the University of Warwick:

- (1) The Council's company interests:**
 - (a) The Council's shareholdings in the UWSP (company number 1659656) comprising 12146 voting shares and 480 non voting shares.**
 - (b) The shareholdings in the UWSP (company number 1659656) held on Trust on behalf of the seven West Midlands Districts comprising 1084 shares.**
 - (c) The relinquishment of the Council's directorships of the UWSP and University of Warwick Science Park Concepts Ltd and trustee directorships in the University of Warwick Science Park Foundation Ltd.**
 - (d) The transfer of the Council's loans, with face values indicated within the report, expiring in 2011/12, 2014 and in 2016/17 to the University of Warwick, followed by redemption of these loans as part of this transaction.**

- (2) The Council's property interests in the Science Park:**
- (a) The Council's long leasehold interests in the property joint ventures undertaken with the UWSP and comprising a 54% share in the Vanguard Centre, 50% shares in the Viscount Centres (1&2), Sovereign Court (1&2) and the Sun Building and 31% of Riley Court.**
 - (b) The freehold of that part of the UWSP in Council ownership subject to the existing long lease to the UWSP expiring in 2132 at a peppercorn.**
 - (c) The transfer of ancillary freehold land adjacent to the Science Park, known as 'Silverstone', off Kirby Corner Road and comprising 0.71 acres, with vacant possession.**
 - (d) The transfer of the freehold of the Westwood Site subject to protection for the athletics track.**
 - (e) Subject to final due diligence on behalf of the University of Warwick and the Council, delegate authority to the Director of City Services and Development and the Director of Finance and Legal Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member (City Development) to approve the final price and approve the final transfers, leasehold agreements and all ancillary documents which are necessary to finalise contractual and commercial completion in accordance with the agreed financial parameters (as per section 2 of the report) and ensuring that the disposal is achieved by the most effective tax structure for the Council.**

158. CV One Service Review

Further to Minute 150 above, the Cabinet considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development, which detailed financially confidential information in relation to proposals to transfer all remaining services under the CV One contract back in house by March 2012 and as such to put in place a grant aid agreement during the transition period to enable a managed and phased handover for both parties.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, Cabinet recommend that Council

- (1) Approve a reduction of the CV One grant, by the amount indicated within the report, in 2011/12 and associated modification of the contract (and subsequently the grant aid agreement) to remove car park management and events. This transfer is associated with the delivery of savings of £0.5m built into the medium term financial strategy for 2011/12. This savings figure is likely to increase as the transition plan develops.**
- (2) To exit the contract with CV One and replace it with a grant aid**

agreement as an interim period arrangement, whilst remaining services transfer back to the Council.

- (3) Approve the development of a phased transition plan, in agreement with CV One, to achieve full transfer of all remaining services provided under the CV One contract and any other services provided under the City Centre Bid by 2012. The determination of the timing and services transferring within the transition plan to be delegated to the Director of City Services and Development and the Director of Finance and Legal Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member (City Development) and Leader of the Council.**
- (4) To delegate authority to the Director of City Services and Development and the Director of Finance and Legal Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member (City Development) and Leader of the Council, to agree the necessary financial means to achieve the objective of full service transfer as outlined in section 2 of the report submitted, limited to one off funding to a maximum sum indicated in the report, to enable CV One to implement the process of a managed wind down by the end of March 2012. This will be linked to agreed measures in the grant aid agreement as indicated.**

159. Alderman's Green Primary School and Spon Gate Primary School Increasing Pupil Places 2011 & 2012

Further to Minute 151 above and Minute 170/10 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People, which detailed financially confidential information in relation to proposals for the rebuilding of Alderman's Green Primary School and expansion works to Spon Gate Primary School as part of the Increasing Pupil Places 2011 & 2012 programmes.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the Council:-

- (1) Approved plans for the rebuilding of Alderman's Green Primary School and expansion works to Spon Gate Primary School as part of the Increasing Pupil Places 2011 and 2012 programmes.**
- (2) Approved total capital expenditure, to the sum indicated within the report submitted, for the rebuilding of Alderman's Green Primary School and the expansion of Spon Gate Primary School to be funded by DfE capital allocations for 2011/12 and other funding sources as set out in section 5.1.3 of the report submitted.**
- (3) Agreed to appropriate the Doe Bank and Moat Buildings shown on the plan attached in Appendix 3 of this report to education use.**

(Meeting closed: 9.30 p.m.)