

# **Council Meeting**

28 June 2011

**Booklet 1**

Recommendations

# **INDEX TO MINUTES**

**Cabinet, 21 June 2011**

## CABINET

21<sup>st</sup> June 2011

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 Townshend
Non-Voting Opposition Representatives present:	Councillor Blundell Councillor Foster
Other Members Present:	Councillor Lakha Councillor Mrs Lucas Councillor Welsh
Employees Present:-	H. Abraham (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate) F. Collingham (Chief Executive's Directorate) M. Coult (Chief Executive's Directorate) T. Darke (City Services and Development Directorate) C. Dear (Chief Executive's Directorate) D. Ford (Chief Executive's Directorate) C. Forde (Finance and Legal Services Directorate) C. Green (Director of Children, Learning and Young People) D. Haley (Children, Learning and Young People's Directorate) B. Hastie (Finance and Legal Services Directorate) P. Jennings (Finance and Legal Services Directorate) L. Knight (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate) R. Lickfold (Children, Learning and Young People's Directorate) B. Messinger (Director of Customer and Workforce Services) M. Morrissey (City Services and Development Directorate) R. Nawaz (Chief Executive's Directorate) J. Parry (Chief Executive's Directorate) C. Pullin (Children, Learning and Young People's Directorate) M. Reeves, (Chief Executive) K. Seager (City Services and Development Directorate) J. Venn (Chief Executive's Directorate) M. Vickery (City Services and Development Directorate) B. Walsh (Director of Community Services) C. West (Director of Finance and Legal Services) M. Yardley (Director of City Services and Development)
Apologies	Councillor Skipper

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 2. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Blundell declared a interest in the matter referred to in Minutes 11 and 15 below, headed "Increasing Pupil Places Programme 2011 and 2012 – Grange Farm, Allesley, Sacred Heart and St Bartholomew's Primary School". As his interest arose as a result of being a Council appointed Governor at Grange Farm School, the interest was not considered prejudicial.

### 3. **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 item of business referred to in Minute 15 below relating to "Increasing Pupil Places Programme 2011 and 2012 – Grange Farm, Allesley, Sacred Heart, St Osburg's and St Bartholomew's Primary School" on the grounds that this item involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part I of Schedule 12A of that Act.

### 4. **Sustainable Community Strategy - Executive Summary 2011-2014**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive, which detailed a refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy for Coventry for the period 2011 to 2014.

The existing Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2028 was adopted by the Council in 2008 and provided a framework for the work of the Coventry Partnership and informed the Council's Corporate Plan and other plans and strategies.

A review of the Sustainable Community Strategy had been completed and all the findings, both qualitative and quantitative were analysed. The summary document for 2011-14, which was appended to the report submitted, built on the comprehensive and positive work that had already take place across the City over the last three years and identified what more needs to be done over the next three years to continue to improve the general 'quality of life' for everyone in the City with a partnership approach.

The process for the refreshing the Strategy led the Coventry Partnership to listen carefully to a wide range of local people, partners and stakeholders and their priorities in order to deliver a more focussed strategy over the next three years.

The Coventry Partnership had agreed their key objectives for the next three years following the review process and these compared with the work of the Council on their vision, objectives and values. The synergy between the two areas of work is closely aligned. The Coventry Partnership therefore, at their last meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011, agreed to adopt the Council Vision 'Coventry proud to be a City that works', with four Coventry Partnership objectives where partners believe they can add 'real value' over the life time of the refreshed SCS. These objectives were:-

- Creating growth, jobs and enterprise, particularly through advanced manufacturing and green technologies;
- Making the City more vibrant;

- Reducing health inequalities; and
- Improving Children and Young People's education and opportunities.

The Cabinet acknowledged that the Sustainable Community Strategy could not be delivered by one organisation on its own, but together partners bring their combined resources, energy and creativity to meet the economic, social and environmental needs of Coventry by working together to improve the 'quality of life' of local residents and to improve the City as a place to live, work and play.

**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 approve the refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy – Executive Summary for 2011-2014.**

#### 5. Local Area Agreement and Corporate Plan – Progress Report 2010/11

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive, which provided a review of performance over 2010/11 against the priorities in the Local Area Agreement and the Corporate Plan management objectives.

The Council and Coventry Partnership agreed Coventry's Sustainable Community Strategy in March 2008, setting out the vision and priorities for Coventry. The three year Local Area Agreement (LAA) set out the measures and targets that would assess progress towards these priorities. The LAA was signed off by Government in June 2008, with a refresh of some targets agreed in March 2009 and March 2010.

Progress had been reported every six months and the report submitted provided an overview of performance over the three years at Appendix 1, highlighting both significant progress and areas that required action by lead organisations and partners.

Appendix 2 provided detail of the progress made towards the targets set for all of the indicators, showing the progress that had been made from the baseline year identified in the LAA to the end year target 2010/11. The Cabinet noted that 45% (19 indicators) had met or exceeded the target; 37% (16 indicators) did not meet target but made progress; 2% (1 indicator) stayed the same; and 16% (7 indicators) got worse.

In addition, at Appendix 3, the progress against each of the short term priorities was summarised for each of the SCS themes.

The report indicated that the Council's Corporate Plan had been agreed in September 2008, aligning its corporate objectives with the priorities within the Sustainable Community Strategy. The supporting performance indicators were revised to include all national indicators in the Local Area Agreement, as well as other national and local indicators that would help to measure progress. The summary of progress for Sustainable Community Strategy themes based on LAA indicated provided a partial overview of progress against the Council's corporate objectives. Full details were provided at Appendix 4. The Assistant Chief Executive reported that two figures within the report were incorrect and that the actual figures for 5A and 5B were 80 and 8.2 respectively.

The Cabinet noted that on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2010 the Government announced that

they no longer required local authorities to report to them on progress against the targets in the LAA and that they would no longer be monitoring performance. The National Indicator set, from which the LAA indicators were drawn had been replaced with a single comprehensive list of data that Government expects from local authorities.

**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 review the progress reported on the Local Area Agreement and Corporate Plan and to take account of issues arising when considering the priorities in the revised Sustainable Community Strategy and Council Plan.**

#### **6. Council Plan 2011/12-2013/14**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive, which detailed the new Council Plan 2011/12-2013/14. The Cabinet noted that the report had also been considered by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

The Council's previous corporate plan was adopted in 2008 and had a three year lifespan, which ended in March 2011. At the same time, the review of the Sustainable Community Strategy and changes to the national performance frameworks for local council's meant that a refresh of the corporate plan was timely.

The new Council Plan 2011/12-2013/14 was a new corporate plan for the Council. The Plan provided the strategic direction for the Council over the next three years and the priorities set within it were aligned to the aspirations of the revised Sustainable Community Strategy, as well as the Council's own improvement agenda.

The Cabinet noted that the Plan was organised into two parts. The first, 'Our Priorities' set out the vision, values and how the Council would work as an organisation and its objectives. The second, 'Measuring Progress' set out in detail what policies and strategies the Council has in place to help it achieve its priorities and how the Council will measure its progress towards this. The Plan followed the vision agreed by the Cabinet in March and was aligned to the refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy.

The Plan would use a balanced scorecard approach to help the Council measure progress and show how it was contributing to the goals of the Sustainable Community Strategy, the Council's own improvement priorities and the values the Council would apply the way it works.

**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 approve the Council Plan 2011/12-2013/14, attached as an Appendix to the report.**

#### **7. Response to Consultation: Future of Local Public Audit**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Finance and Legal Services, which outlined the proposed response to a Government consultation on the future national arrangements for external audit and the administration of audit committees.

A consultation document entitled 'The Future of Local Public Audit' was published by the Department for Communities and Local Government on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011, with a closing date of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011. The document posed 50 questions in total, but the following were the four key issues for local government;

- Whether the proposals met the Governments stated design principles;
- What new arrangements should be put in place for appointing external auditors after the abolition of the Audit Commission;
- Whether the proposals represent additional burdens for local authorities; and
- What steps should be taken to increase independent representation on local audit committees.

The consultation document identified four design principals: localism/decentralisation, transparency, lower audit fees and high standards. The Council's proposed response challenged whether any of these design principles would be met by the proposed approach. The proposed response to the consultation document was detailed in full at Appendix 1 of the report.

The Cabinet noted that, due to the constraints of the Council's calendar of meetings, the Audit Committee had not had the opportunity to formally consider this report prior to the end of June when the response was due. However, the members of the Audit Committee had been provided with an opportunity to comment on the report on an individual basis.

**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 approve the consultation response.**

#### **8. The City Councils Response to the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Green Paper Consultation**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People, which detailed the proposed response to a Government consultation on Special Educational Needs and Disability.

A consultation paper entitled 'Special Education Needs (SEN) and Disability, Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability' was published by the Government on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011, with a closing date of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

The paper contained a wide range of proposals for SEN and disability which included:

- A new approach to identifying SEN through a single Early Years setting and school-based category of SEN;
- A new single assessment process and Education, Health and Care Plan by 2014;
- Local authorities and other services would set out a local offer of all services available;
- The option of a personal budget by 2014 for all families with children with a

- statement of SEN or a new Education, Health and Care Plan; and
- There being greater independence to the assessment of children's needs.

A proposed response to the consultation was detailed in full at Appendix 1 to the report.

**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 approve the consultation response.**

**11. Increasing Pupil Places Programme 2011 and 2012 – Grange Farm, Allesley, Sacred Heart and St Bartholomew's Primary Schools**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People, which outlined proposals and capital funding for works to increase pupil places at Grange Farm, Allesley, Sacred Heart, and St Bartholomew's schools under the Increasing Pupil Places Programme 2011 and 2012. A corresponding private report detailing financially confidential aspects of the proposals was also submitted to this meeting (Minute 15 below refers).

The Cabinet noted that the Increasing Pupil Places Programme 2011 and 2012 involved sixteen schools and the report submitted outlined proposals and capital funding for four of these schools: Grange Farm, Allesley, Sacred Heart and St Bartholomew's Primary Schools.

An Official Journal of the European Community (OJEU) tender process was carried out between June and September 2010 to select a consultant design team and partnering contractor. ID Partnership (lead consultants) and Wates Construction (partnering contractor) had developed the extension proposals in collaboration with key stakeholders. Planning applications for Grange Farm and Allesley were submitted in February and April 2011 respectively and it was intended that an application for Sacred Heart would be submitted in June. Construction works would be completed in time for the schools to increase their intake capacity from September 2012. The extension project to St Bartholomew's Church of England voluntary aided school was being managed by the Diocesan Board of Education.

The costs based on the scheme design proposals were to be funded by a mixture of existing and future Government allocations and other grants. The Cabinet noted that, should there be a shortfall in future allocations, this would be met from Prudential Borrowing.

The proposed works would increase the admission numbers at Grange Farm Primary School from 30 pupils (1 form entry) to 60 pupils (2 form entry) and at Allesley Primary, Sacred Heart Voluntary Aided Primary and St Bartholomew's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary schools from 45 pupils (1.5 form entry) to 60 pupils (2 form entry).

Plans detailing the works required at each of the schools were appended to the report submitted.

**RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals**



contained in the report, and subject to consideration of the private report on this matter, Cabinet recommend that Council:

- (1) Approve plans for the extensions and modifications to Grange Farm Primary School and Allesley Primary Schools.**
- (2) Approve total potential capital expenditure by the City Council.**
- (3) Approve Prudential Borrowing should future central Government allocations be insufficient to fund the above expenditure, noting that the annual loan repayments would be funded by Dedicated Schools Grant, subject to the approval of the Schools Forum.**

**15. Increasing Pupil Places Programme 2011 and 2012 – Grange Farm, Allesley, Sacred Heart and St Bartholomew's Primary School**

Further to Minute 11 above, the Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People, which detailed financially confidential information in relation to proposals to increase pupil places at Grange Farm, Allesley, Sacred Heart and St Bartholomew's Primary Schools.

**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 plans for the extensions and modifications to Grange Farm Primary School and Allesley Primary School.**
- 2. Approve total potential capital expenditure by the Council of the sum indicated, as follows:-**
  - (i) 10% contribution to the cost of the VA school extensions as previously considered in the report to Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010.**
  - (ii) Underwriting of a specified sum as a financial commitment to which the City Council will be liable should there be no LEA (Local Education Authority) Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP) allocation for 2012/13 as detailed in paragraph 5.1.3 of the report.**
  - (iii) Total capital expenditure to the sum indicated for the extensions and modifications to Grange Farm Primary School and Allesley Primary School, to be funded by DfE basic need and capital maintenance grant and other funding resources as set out above.**
  - (iv) Approve Prudential Borrowing up to the sum indicated should future Central Government Allocations be insufficient to fund the above expenditure, noting that the annual loan**

**repayment will be funded by Dedicated Schools Grant –  
subject to the approval of the Schools Forum.**

**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:**