

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY

28th June 2011

PRESENT

Lord Mayor (Councillor Mulhall)

Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Sawdon)

Councillor Abbott	Councillor T. Khan
Councillor Auluck	Councillor Lakha
Councillor Bains	Councillor Lancaster
Councillor Mrs. Bigham	Councillor Lapsa
Councillor Blundell	Councillor Mrs Lepoidevin
Councillor Clifford	Councillor Maton
Councillor Crookes	Councillor McNicholas
Councillor Mrs. Dixon	Councillor J. Mutton
Councillor Duggins	Councillor Mrs. M. Mutton
Councillor Field	Councillor Nellist
Councillor Mrs Fletcher	Councillor Noonan
Councillor Foster	Councillor O'Boyle
Councillor Gannon	Councillor Ruane
Councillor Gazey	Councillor Sandy
Councillor Hammon	Councillor Sehmi
Councillor Harvard	Councillor Singh
Councillor Mrs Hetherton	Councillor Skipper
Councillor Howells	Councillor Mrs Sweet
Councillor Mrs. Johnson	Councillor Taylor
Councillor Kelly	Councillor Townshend
Councillor Kershaw	Councillor Welsh
Councillor A. Khan	Councillor Williams

Apologies: Councillor Andrews
Councillor Chater
Councillor Harrison
Councillor Mrs Lucas
Councillor Ridley
Councillor Skinner
Councillor Walsh

Public Business

18. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 19th May 2011, were agreed as a true record.

19. Coventry Good Citizen Award – David Dumbleton MBE

On behalf of the Council, the Lord Mayor and his Honour Judge Griffith-Jones, the Honorary Recorder, presented David Dumbleton MBE, with the Coventry Good Citizen Award. His citation read:

'David Dumbleton is a 'Coventry Kid' having lived and worked in the city all his life. He was awarded the MBE in 2009 for his services as Diocesan Registrar to the Church of England, which he has performed for over 25 years. His knowledge of ecclesiastical law is second to none, and the advice that he has given has enriched the life of the diocese.

With a quiet and unassuming manner, he has practised his faith in a practical way all of his working life, and has made a significant contribution to a range of charities and voluntary organisations in Coventry.

These include the Newfield Charitable Trust; the Nicholas Chamberlaine's Charities; the United Charity of William Avery and Others; Fillongley Charities; and the Broadweavers and Clothiers of Coventry.

He played a large role in establishing Myton Hospice, which has helped hundreds of terminally ill people and their families, and also provides the charity with free legal services.

David gives freely of his time and expertise to help others less fortunate than himself, and truly deserves the recognition as a Good Citizen of Coventry.'

20. 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 indicated below on the grounds that this item involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of that Act as indicated.

Minute No.	Subject	Relevant Paragraphs(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
35	Increasing Pupil Places Programme 2011 and 2012 – Grange Farm, Allesley, Sacred Heart and St Bartholomew's Primary Schools	3 and 4

21. Birthday Honours

The Lord Mayor referred to the awards made to the following people associated with the City in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List:

- **CBE:** To Rosie Auld from Tile Hill for services to healthcare.
- **MBE:** To Kathie Martin of Orbit Care and Repair for services to older people in Coventry.
- **MBE:** To David Monks for services to blind and partially-sighted people in Coventry.

Members noted that letters of congratulations had been sent, on behalf of the City Council, to all recipients.

22. Petitions

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

- (a) **Objection to Planning Application FUL/2011/0568 (Ventnor Close)**
44 signatures, presented by Councillor Mrs Dixon.
- (b) **Requesting Traffic Lights at Willenhall Railway Bridge**
128 signatures, presented by Councillor Lakha.
- (c) **Stop the spread of Academy Schools**
60 Signatures, presented by Councillor Nellist

23. 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:

(a) Interests in Recommendations for the Council

Minutes 29 and 35 (Increasing Pupil Places Programme 2011 and 2012 – Grange Farm, Allesley, Sacred Heart and St Bartholomew's Primary Schools)

Personal

The following members declared personal interests as Council appointed Governors of the schools indicated:

Councillor Blundell	Grange Farm Primary School
Councillor Crookes	St Bartholomew's
Councillor Dixon	Caludon Castle School
Councillor Sawdon	Grange Farm Primary School
Councillor Towshend	Sacred Heart Primary School
Councillor Williams	Allesley Primary School

(b) Interests in Debate

Minute 34 (Debate: Justice for All)

Personal

Councillor Lancaster (Employee of Holbrooks Community Care)
Councillor Lapsa (Local Authority Appointee of the Law Centre)
Councillor Nellist (Employee of the Citizen's Advice Bureau)

Prejudicial

Councillor Mrs Bigham
Councillor Hammon

Councillors Mrs Bigham and Hammon withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

(c) Interests in Questions

Minute 32 – Question Time (Question 1 - Academies)

Councillor Foster declared an interest as a Trust Appointed Director of Whitley Academy Foundation. As the ensuing discussion did not refer to this Academy, he remained in the meeting during consideration of this item.

24. Sustainable Community Strategy – Executive Summary 2011-14

Further to Minute 4/11 of the Cabinet, the City Council 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 had been 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 (SCS) 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 was closely aligned. The Coventry Partnership therefore, at their last meeting on 7th 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 Sustainable Community Strategy could not be delivered by one organisation on its own, but together partners would 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 the City Council approve the refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy Executive Summary for 2011-2014.

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

Further to Minute 5/11 of the Cabinet, the City Council 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.

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. It had been reported at the Cabinet meeting that two figures within the report were incorrect and that the actual figures for 5A and 5B were 80 and 8.2 respectively.

On 13th October 2010 the Government had 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 the City Council review the progress reported on the Local Area Agreement and Corporate Plan and take account of issues arising when considering the priorities in the revised Sustainable Community Strategy and Council Plan.

26. Council Plan 2011/12 – 2013/14

Further to Minute 6/11 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive, which detailed the new Council Plan 2011/12-2013/14. The report had also been considered by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee at its meeting on 15th June 2011.

The Council's previous corporate plan had been 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 councils 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 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.

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Blundell, seconded by Councillor Noonan, and lost:

"That the draft Council Plan 2011/12-13/14 appended to the report be amended as follows:

*On page 4 of the draft Plan, under the heading **Coventry, proud to be a City that works.... for jobs and growth:***

After:

- Produce a core strategy for the future spatial planning of Coventry*

Insert:

- To improve the retail offer in terms of both quality and quantity particularly in the city centre."*

RESOLVED that the City Council approve the Council Plan 2011/12-2013/14 as appended to the report.

27. Response to Consultation: Future of Local Public Audit

Further to Minute 7/11 of the Cabinet, the City Council 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 30th March 2011, with a closing date of 30th 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.

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 the City Council approve the consultation response.

28. The City Council's Response to the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Green Paper Consultation

Further to Minute 8/11 of the Cabinet, the City Council 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 9th March 2011, with a closing date of 30th 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 the City Council approve the consultation response.

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

Further to Minute 11/11 of the Cabinet, the City Council 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 35 below refers).

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 had been 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 2011. 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. 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 the City 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.**

30. Scrutiny Boards' Annual Report to Council 2010/11

The City Council noted the Scrutiny Boards' Annual report to the City Council for 2010/11.

The report highlighted examples of scrutiny work which illustrated the range of issues covered by the Boards. These had included how the Council was supporting the creation of jobs in a challenging economic climate; the role of the organisation in looking after vulnerable children and adults; and the Council's approach to gritting the roads to keep the city moving in the winter. The report also provided links to more information about the full range of activity undertaken by Scrutiny during the year. The report had been approved by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on 15th June 2011 (their Minute 4/11 refers).

RESOLVED to receive and consider the Scrutiny Boards' Annual report.

31. Amendment to Appointment

The Council considered a report of the Director of Customer and Workforce Services which sought approval to amend an appointment made at the Annual Meeting of the City Council in May 2011.

RESOLVED that the City Council approve, with immediate effect, the appointment of Councillor O'Boyle as Chair of the St Michael's Ward Forum in place of Councillor Welsh.

32. 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 Blundell	Councillor Singh Sehmi	His views of the Government's Academy Programme and his vote in respect of the conversion of Whitley Abbey as an Academy
(Note: Councillor Singh Sehmi undertook to respond to Councillor Blundell in writing)			
2.	Councillor Noonan	Councillor Skipper	Ringfencing of 'Supporting People' Money
3.	Councillor Auluck	Councillor Mutton	Leadership of the opposition party

33. Statement by the Leader of the Council

There was no statement.

34. Debate – Justice for All

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

"This Council supports the Justice for All campaign and believes proposed Government cuts will seriously curtail the access to Justice in the field of social welfare for Coventry people."

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

Private Business

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

Further to Minute 29 above, and Minute 15/11 of the Cabinet, the City Council 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 the City 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 15th 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.**

(Meeting closed: 5.10 p.m.)