



Coventry City Council

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## **Council Meeting**

20<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**Booklet 1**

Recommendation Minutes

# **INDEX TO MINUTES**

**Cabinet, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

## CABINET

13<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Cabinet Members

Present: -

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

Non-Voting Opposition

Representatives present:- Councillor Blundell

Employees Present:-

H. Abraham (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)  
M. Andrews (City Services and Development Directorate)  
M. Checkley (City Services and Development Directorate)  
F. Collingham (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
L. Commane (Finance and Legal Services Directorate)  
T. Darke (City Services and Development 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)  
S. Heawood (Children, Learning and Young People's Directorate)  
C. Knight (City Services and Development Directorate)  
L. Knight (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)  
R. Lickfold (Children, Learning and Young People's Directorate)  
S. Mangan (Finance and Legal Services Directorate)  
J. Morley (City Services and Development Directorate)  
J. Newton (City Services and Development Directorate)  
J. Parry (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
C. Pearson (City Services and Development Directorate)  
M. Reeves (Chief Executive)  
S. Roach (Community Services Directorate)  
M. Watson (Community Services Directorate)  
C. West (Director of Finance and Legal Services)  
M. Yardley (Director of City Services and Development)

Apologies

Councillor Foster

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 129. Options for a New Housing Target for Coventry 2011-2028

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development, which sought approval of a proposed consultation with residents and stakeholders on options for new housing targets for Coventry, the results of which would inform the final Core Strategy.

Independent consultants had been working on a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) that estimated the housing need for Coventry up to 2028. This would inform the Core Strategy and was a crucial evidence document. The consultants had now provided the Council with a draft interim report, which included a number of different scenarios for the future development of Coventry and provided estimates of the numbers of new homes needed for each scenario.

Scenario 1 was based on the historic trends of average net residential completions over the last 20 years, taken from the Council's annual monitoring reports. This would require 9,690 net dwellings between 2011 and 2028, which would equate to 570 dwellings per annum.

Scenario 2 was developed through the SHMA process and assumed that the number of jobs in Coventry would grow at a rate of 5.2% over the plan period. This figure was based on the 2010 IPM sub-regional baseline forecasts for Coventry and was also reflective of the annual average rate of delivery seen in the City in the last 10 years, which was also evidenced from the Council's annual monitoring reports. This scenario would require 11,373 net dwellings between 2011 and 2028, which equated to 669 dwellings per annum.

Scenario 3 was based on the 2010 population projection published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The number of households differed slightly to the ONS figures due to some rebasing to 2011 and adjustments to headship rate assumptions. In addition it included an allowance of 2.5% for vacant properties. This was based on standard national assumptions when formulating housing requirements from household growth projections. This scenario would require 20,655 net dwellings between 2011 and 2028, which equated to 1,215 dwellings per annum.

The consultation document was appended to the report submitted and included details of the types of land required, estimated employment land delivery, benefits and opportunities and risks and impacts for each of the 3 scenarios.

The Cabinet noted that scenario 3 was the official Government projection for the City and that if this was not included within the consultation, it was likely that an independent inspector would instruct the Council to consult on this figure at a later date. The Chair also reminded the Cabinet that it remained the policy of the administration, that there should be no building on Greenbelt / Greenfield land whilst Brownfield land was available.

It was proposed that a period of consultation be undertaken from 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012 to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012, in accordance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement.

**RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the Cabinet recommends that Council approve the "Option for a New Housing Target for Coventry 2011-2028" document for a six week period of public consultation beginning on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and ending on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012.**

### 130. **Draft Climate Change Strategy for Coventry**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of City Service and Development, which outlined the progress in producing a Climate Change Strategy for Coventry and requested endorsement of the final draft.

The Council first published a Climate Change Strategy with the Coventry Partnership in March 2008. Since that date, the Energy Act 2008 and the Climate Change Act 2008 had introduced major changes to encourage energy efficiency, promote investment in the low carbon sector and to set legally binding carbon reduction targets on the UK. Local authorities were expected to be closely involved in delivering these commitments and were expected to demonstrate local leadership through working with partners to reduce the carbon footprint of their areas and from their own operations.

The purpose of the Climate Change Strategy was to provide a framework to co-ordinate the many different people and organisations involved in the drive to tackle climate change. It also identified the many single strategies that contributed to the overall carbon reduction target of a 34% reduction by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050.

The report indicated that households which needed to spend more than 10 per cent of their income on fuel to maintain a satisfactory heating regime, as well as meeting their other fuel needs (lighting, appliances, cooking and water heating), were classed as being fuel poor. In Coventry the number of homes in fuel poverty was increasing, with 25.9 per cent of homes classed as fuel poor in 2009, against 21.9 per cent in 2008. The average for England was 18.4 per cent (15.6 per cent in 2008). However, these averaged figures tended to mask more significant concerns such as that over a quarter of the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the City had more than 30 per cent of homes in fuel poverty and that in 4 LSOAs more than 40 per cent of homes were fuel poor when in 2008 there were none.

The challenges presented by climate change and the need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions would affect every household, workplace, school and community group in the City. Rising energy costs, phasing out of certain kinds of light bulbs, changes to electrical equipment, different scales of car tax, extreme weather events, carbon taxes and the availability of home insulation were just some examples of the changes seen within in the last few years.

The actions within the Strategy, which was appended to the report, fell into four main categories; those already in progress, those that were planned, some that were aspirational and some that required approval. It was anticipated that those requiring approval would form the basis of future reports to Cabinet Member or Cabinet as appropriate. Aspirational actions required further investigation into their feasibility and means of delivery and may require formal approval in the same way. It was noted that the Council would also have an important promotional and leadership role in encouraging others to act and change how they live and work.

The Cabinet noted that the report had also been considered by the Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Board (Scrutiny Board 4) at their meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012 (their minute 62/11 refers). A briefing note indicating that the Board were supportive of the recommendations within the report was circulated in advance of the meeting.

**RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the Cabinet approve the actions in the Strategy to tackle fuel poverty are prioritised to reflect the urgency of this issue for the City and recommends that Council approve the final draft Climate Change Strategy.**

#### **131. Response to Consultation – Devolving Local Major Transport Schemes**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development, which detailed a proposed response to a Government consultation issued by the Department for Transport on proposals to devolve transport major scheme funding from a national to local level.

Currently, local authorities were required to submit detailed major scheme business cases to the Government to obtain funds for major transport schemes over £5m. The future proposal was for the Government to distribute funds to new Local Transport Bodies (LTBs) based on the geographical boundaries of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). It would be for the LTBs to prioritise a programme of major schemes, demonstrate value for money and determine the appropriate delivery bodies.

The consultation document set out how the devolution process could work, the governance necessary and the assurances required to ensure that investment returns were maximised. A number of options were also set out for the role of the LEP in any decision making process. The consultation paper, and subsequent clarification, made it clear that local authorities were seen as having the primary role in the LTB, and while LEPs should not have a lead role, they should have real influence over the process.

The proposed response to the consultation was broadly supportive of the proposals, whilst indicating that the opportunity to work collaboratively with surrounding LTB's and LTP's should be welcomed and agreed to be of key importance moving forward, on the basis that there were likely to be a number of priority schemes which would require cross-boundary working and working with neighbouring areas to deliver the infrastructure needed to support economic growth in the West Midlands and beyond.

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

- (1) Approve the proposed response to the Department for Transport's consultation titled Devolving Local Major Transport Schemes as set out in Appendix 2 to this report noting in particular:**
  - (a) A preference for receiving the full devolved major scheme funding allocation direct to a new democratically accountable and led Local Transport Body without top slicing by Government or other organisations.**
  - (b) That the ability to deliver individual schemes with other Local Transport Bodies is welcomed, either as a consortia or joint partners. However, decisions regarding how the funding allocation received is discharged should be solely directed by a Local Transport Body based on the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership geography.**
- (2) Endorse the opening of discussions with Warwickshire County Council, Centro and the Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership regarding the future formation of a Local Transport Body.**

Meeting closed at: 3.30 pm