

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY

19th March, 2013

PRESENT

Lord Mayor (Councillor Sawdon)

Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Crookes)

Councillor Mrs Abbott	Councillor Lakha
Councillor Akhtar	Councillor Lancaster
Councillor Ali	Councillor Mrs Lepoidevin
Councillor Andrews	Councillor Mrs Lucas
Councillor Auluck	Councillor McNicholas
Councillor Bains	Councillor Maton
Councillor Mrs Bigham	Councillor Mrs Miks
Councillor Blundell	Councillor Mulhall
Councillor Caan	Councillor J. Mutton
Councillor Chater	Councillor Mrs M. Mutton
Councillor Clifford	Councillor Noonan
Councillor Duggins	Councillor O'Boyle
Councillor Mrs Fletcher	Councillor Ruane
Councillor Foster	Councillor Sandy
Councillor Galliers	Councillor Sehmi
Councillor Gannon	Councillor Singh
Councillor Gingell	Councillor Skinner
Councillor Hammon	Councillor Mrs Sweet
Councillor Hetherton	Councillor Taylor
Councillor Howells	Councillor Thay
Councillor Innes	Councillor Thomas
Councillor Kelly	Councillor Townshend
Councillor Kershaw	Councillor Walsh
Councillor A. Khan	Councillor Welsh
	Councillor Williams

Apologies: Councillor Harvard
Councillor T Khan
Councillor Skipper

Honorary
Alderman Present: D. Batten
J. Gazey

Public Business

140. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th February, 2013 were signed as a true record.

141. 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 it involves the likely disclosure of information defined in the specified Paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the Act as it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and that in all of the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Minute No.	Subject	Relevant Paragraphs(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
155	Public Leisure Facility Re-Provisioning For the North East of Coventry	3

142. Correspondence and Announcements of the Lord Mayor

There were no announcements of the Lord Mayor.

143. Petitions

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

- (a) Request for works to improve grass verges on Daventry Road - 38 signatures – presented by Councillor Foster.
- (b) Request for the provision of a pedestrian crossing across Broad Lane at its junction with Banner Lane – 107 signatures – presented by Councillor Thomas
- (c) Request to keep the advice centre in Willenhall – 291 signatures – presented by Councillor Chater

144. Declarations of Interest

The following Members declared Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in the item indicated below. The Members withdrew from the meeting during consideration of those items.

Public Leisure Facility Re-Provisioning for the North East of Coventry
(Minutes 145 and 155 refer)

Councillor Mrs Bigham
Councillor Clifford
Councillor Duggins
Councillor McNicholas
Councillor Maton
Councillor Skinner

145. **Public Leisure Facility Re-Provisioning for the North East of Coventry**

Further to Minute 133 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development, which sought approval for investment in the development of wet-side (including swimming pools), community and associated service facilities at Centre AT7 as a re-provisioning for those facilities at Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre, Livingstone Road that would be withdrawn as a result of the decommissioning and closure of this ageing leisure centre.

A corresponding private report detailing financially confidential aspects of the proposals was also submitted to this meeting (Minute 155 below refers).

In July 2011, Cabinet approved collaborative working with Coventry Sports Trust (CST) and Coventry Sports Foundation (CSF) to identify a new vision for public sports and leisure provision in the city, involving both operational and facility stock reviews. As a consequence of this collaborative working, in April 2012, CSF assumed a consultative management responsibility for the service provision of CST.

Alongside this review of public leisure service provision, a wider consultation was also been undertaken in respect of the City's future sporting aspirations, through extensive desktop strategic research, a city-wide public survey and initial stakeholder engagement.

The findings of this research and consultation drew out eight key vision statements that became the basis of an Emerging Sports Vision. One of these key vision statements referenced the need "to provide a range of modern, accessible and high quality sports facilities in the City".

Following the July 2011 Cabinet approval for CST to close the Arena Health and Fitness Club, Cabinet further approved the detailed development of a proposal for aquatic (swimming pools) and community facilities at Centre AT7 as a re-provisioning of facilities at Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre, Livingstone Road.

As an ageing facility, Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre (which opened to the public in 1937) had experienced a significant decline in participation (from 223,000 in 1995 to 91,002 in 2011/12). The ageing plant within the Centre meant that currently just two of the three boilers at the centre were operational, whilst the inadequate capacity of the pool circulation plant limited bather loads, required a 41 hour shut down of the pool to deal with any contamination and required specific testing and management regimes in order to monitor and maintain acceptable microbiology levels in the pool water.

Similarly, in 2007 an approved capital investment of £0.5m for rectification works that were anticipated to last for 14 weeks, actually resulted in works costing £1.1m along with a 13 month closure of the main pool and a 21 month closure of the learner pool.

Centre AT7 was located 0.8 miles from the Livingstone Road site. As a dry-side only site (with no wet-side provision), through various developments and facility expansions, the Centre had broadened its activity base and public leisure offer, resulting in a 128% increase in participation in the same period from 1995 to 2012 (rising from 130,000 to 296,050 visits per annum).

Accordingly, on 3rd January 2012, Cabinet approved grant funding not exceeding £0.65m to Coventry and Warwickshire Award Trust (CAWAT), as the owners of the Centre AT7 site, for design and feasibility works relating to any proposed development of aquatic, service and community facilities. As such, project management and full design teams were subsequently procured through the Scape framework and had been working since March 2012 and May 2012 respectively to produce the currently proposed designs for Centre AT7.

The proposals within the report aimed to improve the quality of sports facilities in the north east of the City, with the inclusion of a new 25 metre swimming pool, a leisure/learner pool, water slides, a health suite (jacuzzi, sauna and steam room), community facilities and improved parking at the Centre AT7 site, along with some associated service renewal to existing facilities within the Centre. It was anticipated that the provision of new, high quality sports facilities along with associated community outreach programming would further contribute to increasing local participation in sport and active recreation, thereby also contributing to health and wellbeing outcomes for local people, particularly in the north east of the City.

These proposals further contributed to the delivery of a more coherent and consistent leisure offer for the people of Coventry, including organisational structures that would drive greater efficiency savings and facilitate the recycling of existing finances into the development of high-quality, public leisure facilities. This would deliver a cost-neutral revenue position for the Council over the life of the funding of the project, through the reinvestment of repatriated savings from the closure and withdrawal of public leisure service provision from other sports facilities.

In addition, the Cabinet considered a petition bearing 6,657 signatures, opposing the closure of the Foleshill Leisure Centre. Mr Bromwich, the petition organiser, attending the meeting and spoke on behalf of the petitioners.

The Cabinet had approved:

- a) The delegation of authority to the Director of City Services and Development and the Director of Financial and Legal Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities) to approve the detailed scope and implementation of the proposed works in accordance with the planning permission, along with associated professional appointments.
- b) The delegation of authority to the Director of City Services and Development and the Director of Finance and Legal Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities) to agree to complete a lease with the Coventry and Warwickshire Award Trust as the freehold owner of Centre AT7 for the construction of the wet-side facility for 47-year term commencing on 1st April 2013.
- c) The managed decommissioning and closure of Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre, with the intention of facilitating a seamless transition of service provision in the north east of the city (subject to risk management and budget constraints);

- d) Further investigation of potential options for future usage of the Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre/Livingstone Road site and undertake a marketing/disposal feasibility exercise with a view to reporting back to Members.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- a) **Notes the above approvals from Cabinet.**
- b) **Approves proposals for the development of wet-side (including swimming pools) and community and associated service facilities at Centre AT7 as a re-provision of the ageing facilities at Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre, Livingstone Road;**
- c) **Provides funding of £7.45m for the development of wet-side (including swimming pools) and community and associated service facilities at Centre AT7 as an addition to the 2013/2014 Capital programme.**

Note:-

- (1) Councillors Mrs Bigham, Clifford, Duggins, Maton and McNicholas withdrew from the Chamber for consideration of this item)
- (2) 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:

For - 43

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

Councillor Abbott
Councillor Akhtar
Councillor Andrews
Councillor Bains
Councillor Blundell
Councillor Caan
Councillor Chater
Councillor Crookes
Councillor Mrs Fletcher
Councillor Foster
Councillor Galliers
Councillor Gannon
Councillor Gingell
Councillor Hammon
Councillor Mrs Hetherton
Councillor Howells
Councillor Innes
Councillor Kelly
Councillor Kershaw
Councillor Lakha
Councillor Lancaster

Councillor Lepoidevin
Councillor Mrs Lucas
Councillor Mrs Miks
Councillor Mulhall
Councillor J Mutton
Councillor Mrs M Mutton
Councillor Noonan
Councillor O'Boyle
Councillor Ruane
Councillor Sandy
Councillor B Singh
Councillor Singh Sehmi
Councillor Skinner
Councillor Mrs Sweet
Councillor Taylor
Councillor Thay
Councillor Thomas
Councillor Townshend
Councillor Walsh
Councillor Welsh
Councillor Williams
Lord Mayor

(Note: Councillors Ali, Auluck and A. Khan were not in the Council Chamber when the named vote was recorded)

146. **Coventry Health and Well-Being Strategy**

Further to Minute 139 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Director of Public Health, which sought approval of the Coventry Health and Well-being Strategy.

The report indicated that the 2012 Health and Social Care Act, which would take effect on 1 April 2013, introduced significant changes across Health and Social Care. Amongst these changes was the requirement for Local Authorities to establish Health and Well-Being Boards to maintain an overview of the health, social care and wellbeing of the local population.

Health and Well-Being Boards would carry specific responsibilities. These responsibilities included leading the development of the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and Joint Health and Well-being Strategy (JHWS). The JHWS was a key document as it would inform the strategies for both health and social care commissioners, who would be expected to work together to deliver the identified priorities.

In preparation for the introduction of the Health and Social Care Act Coventry had established a Shadow Health and Well-Being Board. While in shadow form, and in anticipation of an imminent statutory responsibility, the Board had focused on the development of the JSNA and the Coventry Health and Well-Being Strategy in readiness for going live in April 2013.

The development of the strategy has been an extensive process of stakeholder engagement and consultation. As a result of this work, the Shadow Health and Well-Being Board agreed to accept the strategy at its December meeting and adopt the a number of strategic themes and priorities, which were detailed within the report. A copy of the Strategy was appended to the report submitted.

RESOLVED that the City Council approves the Coventry Health and Well-Being Strategy attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

147. **Coventry Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2013-18**

Further to Minute 141 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Director of Community Services, which sought approval of the Coventry Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2013-18, which was appended to the report.

Although the Council no longer owned any council housing after the stock was transferred to Whitefriars Housing Group in 2000, the Council still has strategic housing responsibilities which included:

- To assess and plan for the current and future housing needs of the local population across all tenures.
- To make the best use of the existing housing stock.
- To plan and facilitate new supply.
- To plan and commission housing support services which link homes and housing support services.
- To work in partnership to secure effective housing and neighbourhood management on an on-going basis.

In addition, the Council had a duty to carry out a periodic review of homelessness in the area and publish a Homelessness Strategy.

A Housing Strategy was required to ensure the future provision of housing to meet the needs of the residents of Coventry. The production of a Homelessness Strategy was a legal duty required in the Homelessness Act 2002. Although the Council had previously produced separate strategies for housing and homelessness, due to the synergy between the documents, a combined Strategy had been developed. This combined Strategy set out the way that the Council's responsibilities for housing and homelessness would be met during 2013-18.

Consultation had been carried out, which included the consideration of a draft Strategy by the Transportation and Infrastructure Development Scrutiny Board (6) and a Final Draft Coventry Housing & Homelessness Strategy had been produced.

RESOLVED that the City Council approves the Coventry Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2013-18.

148. **Developing International Links**

Further to Minute 144 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Chief Executive, which sought approval for new international links to be developed with Jalandhar, India and to explore potential relationships and links with cities and regions in Brazil.

Coventry had an international reputation as a city of peace and reconciliation. In addition to its post-war historic links, the City had a wide range of international links and relationships - economic; educational and cultural – that continued to develop and change over time. The Council’s international strategy directed and prioritised international activity including the development and support of key international links through formal civic engagement led by the Lord Mayor of Coventry. It was proposed that the current priorities of the Council’s international activity should be maintained, and, in view of economic and global change, new international links should be considered and developed to support future growth and jobs in Coventry.

The report indicated that Coventry’s most active civic international arrangements were with its most recent twin city, Jinan in China. This international link was developed thirty years ago by the Council working with local businesses and the Chamber of Commerce and it continued to be important for economic development activity. A review of potential trade and investment opportunities of civic links by the council’s Business Growth Team and discussions with local businesses had identified the potential economic benefits to Coventry of exploring the development of civic links to the other “BRIC” countries (Brazil; Russia; India; China), in particular India and Brazil. A recent UK trade delegation to India led by the Prime Minister had emphasised the need to develop closer ties to take advantage of the potential economic opportunities for UK businesses.

In February 2012 the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Councillor Mulhall, made a civic visit to India. As part of the visit, the Lord Mayor’s delegation had initial discussions with three cities in the Punjab region of India with a view to exploring potential civic links, aiming to build on local community links to help develop potential future economic benefits to the city. An assessment of the economic and cultural benefits of twinning had identified the city of Jalandhar as a potential twin city and it was proposed that the Council agreed to pursue a formal twinning link with Jalandhar.

In addition, the Cabinet had noted that there was also currently considerable local business interest, including from the automotive industry, in South America, particularly in Brazil where it was anticipated that there would also be potential benefits for local businesses from the 2016 Olympic Games. Coventry did not have the strong community and cultural links with Brazil as it had with India and it was considered that the formal twinning route may not be the best way to develop links with cities in this country. It was therefore recommended that the Council should work with local businesses to explore potential relationships and links with cities and regions in Brazil which may take a different form to the more traditional civic twinning link.

RESOLVED that the Council endorses the following decision of the Cabinet:-

1. That approval be given:

(a) For International activity undertaken by the Council to continue to focus on three priorities:

- **Peace, reconciliation and supporting democracy**
- **Economy, business and trade**
- **Culture, education and community links**

(b) To pursue formal civic twinning arrangements between the

city of Coventry and the Indian city of Jalandhar.

- (c) To work with local businesses to explore the development of new international links with Brazil,**
- (d) To continue to recognise the value of community-led international links and initiatives, providing civic support to such activities when it is appropriate**

149. Transitions to Public Health and Constitutional Changes

Further to Minute 35 of the Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) the Council considered a joint report of the Director of Finance and Legal Services and the Director of Public Health, which set out and sought approval of changes required in respect of public health and resultant constitutional changes.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 received royal assent in March 2012 and would introduce major reforms of the NHS, public health and social care. Whilst some parts of the Act were already in force, most provisions would take effect on 1st April 2013. The transfer of public health functions to local authorities and the requirement to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board (the Board) meant that changes needed to be made to the Constitution and authority given to deal with the formal transfer of assets and liabilities from services which would cease to exist after 31st March 2013

The report indicated that, in particular, change would need to be considered in respect of the terms of reference, membership of, and voting rights for the Health and Wellbeing Board when it became operational on 1st April 2013; delegated powers for the Director of Public Health to enable her to carry out her statutory duties, as well as her functions as a member of the Council's Corporate Management Board; and other minor amendments to the Constitution, which needed to be in place before the new municipal year.

In addition, the Council needed to give delegated authority to the Council Solicitor to accept formally, the legal documents transferring staff and the legal title and legal right in assets and liabilities from the PCT to the Council.

The Cabinet Member had been advised at his meeting that regulations issued in February 2013 modified the operation of the usual rules for Council Committees when applied to the Board. This meant that the Council had some choices to make about the detailed governance and operation of the Board.

The Director of Community Services had reported that, at paragraph 2.3.2 of the report, an amendment was required to the suggested membership, in that the GP Commissioning Consortium was now known as the Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group.

The Cabinet Member had noted that the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board had considered this matter at their meeting on 11th March, 2013, along with the various choices available and a briefing note which set out their views and recommendations was tabled at his meeting. In particular, the Shadow Board had recommended that:-

- i) The Health and Wellbeing Board should have the same terms of reference as the Shadow Board, until such time as it is in a position to review those terms of reference and make recommendations, and
- ii) The membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board should, for the time being, be the same as the membership for the Shadow Board, until such time as it reaches a view on whether the membership needs to be changed.

The Cabinet Member had indicated that he would accept recommendation i), but felt that the proposals detailed ii) above were effectively dealt with within recommendation 1 of the report submitted and therefore had not agree to this proposal.

In addition, having considered the recommendations proposed within the report, the Cabinet Member had indicated that the recommendations detailed at 2 and 4, should be deferred until the Health and Wellbeing Board had the opportunity to consider these matters further and put forward recommendations. He further indicated that, as Legislation had already established that Health and Wellbeing Boards were not required to be politically balanced, recommendation 3 of the report submitted should be withdrawn.

Finally, having considered the suggested delegated powers of the Director of Public Health set out at paragraph 3.3.3 of the report, the Cabinet Member recommended detailed changes to the scheme of delegations, as outlined in the Appendix to the minutes.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- 1) Confirms the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board as the membership set out in the table in paragraph 2.3.2 of the report, with effect from 1st April 2013, until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2013, when the final membership will be determined.**
- 2) Confirms the existing terms of reference of the shadow Health and Wellbeing Board as the terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board with effect from 1st April 2013, until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2013, when the final terms of reference will be determined.**
- 3) Approves changes to the Constitution as set out in sections 3.3 and 3.4 of the report submitted, including the amendments to the delegated powers of the Director of Public Health as detailed in the Appendix attached to the minutes**
- 4) Delegates authority to the Council Solicitor to:**
 - a) Make any necessary changes to the Constitution set out in sections 3.3 and 3.4 arising from these Recommendations including the amendments to the delegated powers of the Director of Public Health shown in the Appendix to these minutes.**
 - b) Accept formally the legal documents transferring staff and the legal title and legal rights in assets and liabilities and be appointed to sign the legal documents and seal the legal documents.**

- 5) **Defer consideration of recommendations 2 and 4 of the report submitted until such time as the Health and Wellbeing Board have considered the matters further and have submitted recommendations.**
- 6) **Withdraw recommendation 3 of the report submitted on the basis that this issue is addressed within Legislation.**

150. Pay Policy Statement 2013/14

The Council considered a report of the Director of Customer and Workforce Services, which sought approval of the 2013/14 Pay Policy Statement.

The Localism Act 2011 required all local authorities to produce an annual Pay Policy Statement .The Statement must articulate the City Council's policies towards a range of issues relating to the pay of the workforce, particularly the most senior staff (or "chief officers") and the relationship of their pay to the lowest paid employees. The annual Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14 was attached to the report.

RESOLVED that the Council approve the 2013/14 Pay Policy Statement attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

151. Question Time

Councillor O'Boyle provided a written response to the question set out in the Questions Booklet, together with oral responses to supplementary questions put to him 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 Noonan	Councillor McNicholas	HS2
2	Councillor Blundell	Councillor Kershaw	Ofsted Inspections
3	Councillor Thay	Councillor Mrs Lucas	Budget Cuts to Community Services
4	Councillor Hammon	Councillor Townshend	Clock in Council Chamber

152. Statement by the Leader

There was no statement by the Leader.

153. Debate – Pay Day Loans

Councillor Howells moved the following Motion which was seconded by Councillor Sandy:

“This Council recognises the impact current economic conditions are having on people across the UK, including our constituents in Coventry.

Therefore, the growth of short term pay day loans companies is of immense concern. Such companies are capitalising on people’s economic vulnerability by charging extortionate amounts of annual percentage rates on their loans.

The Council requests that Central Government place a reasonable limit on the interest charged on short term loans so financial companies are not capitalising on the vulnerability of so many of our citizens during these challenging economic times”

RESOLVED that the Motion, as set out, above be unanimously adopted.

154. **Debate – 2015 Rugby World Cup**

Councillor Skinner moved the following Motion which was seconded by Councillor Hammon:

“This Council notes that Coventry’s Ricoh Arena and Birmingham’s Villa park are competing venues for games to be held as part of the 2015 Rugby Union World Cup.

Given that Coventry was once the capital of England under King Henry VI, that the iconic Cathedral and the legend of Lady Godiva are known around the world and that it leads the way in promoting peace and reconciliation, the Council believes that our City is the ideal host for the rugby World Cup”

RESOLVED that the Motion, as set out, above be unanimously adopted.

Private Business

155. **Public Leisure Facility Re-Provisioning for the North East of Coventry**

Further to Minute 145 above, and to Minute 147 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a private report of the Director of City Services and Development, which detailed financially confidential aspects of proposals for investment in the development of wet-side (including swimming pools), community and associated service facilities at Centre AT7 as a re-provisioning for those facilities at Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre, Livingstone Road that would be withdrawn as a result of the decommissioning and closure of this ageing leisure centre.

The Cabinet had approved:

- a) The delegation of authority to the Director of City Services and Development and the Director of Financial and Legal Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities) to approve the detailed scope and implementation of the proposed works in accordance with the planning permission, along with associated professional appointments.
- b) The delegation of authority to the Director of City Services and

Development and the Director of Finance and Legal Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities) to agree to complete a lease with the Coventry and Warwickshire Award Trust as the freehold owner of Centre AT7 for the construction of the wet-side facility for 47-year term commencing on 1st April 2013.

- c) The managed decommissioning and closure of Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre, with the intention of facilitating a seamless transition of service provision in the north east of the city (subject to risk management and budget constraints);
- d) Further investigation of potential options for future usage of the Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre/Livingstone Road site and undertake a marketing/disposal feasibility exercise with a view to reporting back to Members.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- a) **Notes the above approvals from Cabinet.**
- b) **Approves proposals for the development of wet-side (including swimming pools) and community and associated service facilities at Centre AT7 as a re-provision of the ageing facilities at Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre, Livingstone Road;**
- c) **Provides funding of £7.45m for the development of wet-side (including swimming pools) and community and associated service facilities at Centre AT7 as an addition to the 2013/2014 Capital Programme.**

Note: On behalf of the City Council, the Leader, Councillor J Mutton, thanked the Lord Mayor for the manner in which he had chaired Council meetings during 2012/13.

(Meeting closed at 4.50 pm)

Lord Mayor

Date