

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY

Held on 23rd July 2013, in the Council House, Coventry

PRESENT

Lord Mayor (Councillor Crookes)

Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Noonan)

Councillor Mrs Abbott	Councillor T. Khan
Councillor Akhtar	Councillor Lakha
Councillor Ali	Councillor Lancaster
Councillor Andrews	Councillor Lepoidevin
Councillor Auluck	Councillor Mrs Lucas
Councillor Bains	Councillor McNicholas
Councillor Mrs Bigham	Councillor Mrs Miks
Councillor Blundell	Councillor J. Mutton
Councillor Caan	Councillor Mrs M. Mutton
Councillor Chater	Councillor O'Boyle
Councillor Clifford	Councillor Ruane
Councillor Duggins	Councillor Sandy
Councillor Mrs Fletcher	Councillor Singh
Councillor Foster	Councillor Skinner
Councillor Galliers	Councillor Skipper
Councillor Gannon	Councillor Mrs Sweet
Councillor Hammon	Councillor Taylor
Councillor Harvard	Councillor Thay
Councillor Hetherton	Councillor Thomas
Councillor Howells	Councillor Townshend
Councillor Innes	Councillor Walsh
Councillor Kershaw	Councillor Welsh
Councillor A. Khan	

Apologies: Councillor Gingell
Councillor Kelly
Councillor Maton
Councillor Mulhall
Councillor Sawdon
Councillor Sehmi
Councillor Williams

Honorary

Alderman Present: J. Gazey
J. Wright

Public Business

39. Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting held on 25th June 2013 were signed as a true record.

40. 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 they involve 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
57	Freehold Disposal of the former Central Depot Foleshill to Barratts PLC	3
58	Coventry City Centre Public Realm Phase 2	3

41. Death of Bishop Colin

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death of Bishop Colin. He had served as Bishop for the Diocese of Coventry from 1998 – 2008.

Members noted that a letter expressing the Council's sincere condolences had been sent to Bishop Colin's wife and family.

42. Royal Birth Congratulations

The Lord Mayor referred to the previous day's announcement of the Royal birth from Buckingham Palace.

Members noted the Lord Mayor's intention to write, on behalf of the Council, to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge extending congratulations on the birth of their son.

43. Congratulations on Awards

On behalf of the City Council, the Lord Mayor congratulated officers of City Services and Development who had recently won the following awards for their public realm works:

- An Innovation Award 2013 for Coventry City Public Realm Scheme: the 20mph Zone from the West Midlands Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation Awards
- Effective Partnerships Award from the National Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation Awards 2013
- Urban Transport Design Award 2013 for Gosford Street from PTRC 2013 Transport Practitioners' Meeting Awards

44. Business Awards

The Lord Mayor reported that Jaguar Land Rover had recently won two 'Business in the Community' Awards - Responsible Business of the Year and the Education Award.

Members noted that the Lord Mayor had written to Dr Speth the Chief Executive extending the City Council's congratulations.

45. UK Corporate Games

The Lord Mayor referred to the City's hosting of the UK Corporate Games on 4th-7th July, the same weekend as the Godiva Festival and indicated that the City Council and the University of Warwick had done Coventry proud in delivering a fantastic weekend of sport. The Parade of 5,000 Athletes in Broadgate on Saturday evening had been a display of colour with an enthused atmosphere. The City Council had 117 members in their team, competing in 15 different sports and had come 16th in the medal table out of the 56 companies that took part.

Notable Council employees who were 1st place winners in their categories were Theresa Jones who won 3 x 1st in the women's golf, Michelle Price who won the women's table tennis, Harvey Speed who won 1st place overall in the 10k running and Martin Reeves who won 1st place in his 10k running category.

The City Council extended their congratulations and thanks to everyone who took part in the event, either as a competitor or organiser.

46. Birthday Congratulations

The Lord Mayor presented the Leader, Councillor Mrs Lucas, with a bouquet of flowers on the occasion of her birthday.

The Lord Mayor also presented Councillor Blundell with a small gift to mark his recent birthday.

47. Petitions

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

- (a) Request for traffic calming measures on Harnall Lane East - 45 signatures – presented by Councillor Akhtar.**
- (b) Request to prioritise remedial work at the junction of the A45 and Broad Lane – 484 signatures – presented by Councillor Thomas**
- (c) No ball games in Exeter Close – 12 signatures – presented by Councillor Lakha**
- (d) Save Park and Ride North – 253 signatures – presented by Councillor Harvard.**

48. **Declarations of Interest**

The following Members declared interests in the item indicated below. The Member withdrew from the meeting during consideration of those items:

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Coventry City Centre Public Realm, Phase 2 (Minutes 50 and 58) – Councillor Hammon

49. **Freehold Disposal of the former Central Depot, Foleshill to Barratts PLC**

Further to Minute 30/13 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development, which set out proposals for the freehold disposal of the former Central Depot site at Foleshill to Barratts PLC.

The Council owned site was approximately 7.45 acres and was identified on the plan appended to the report. A residential development upon the site was proposed by Barratts PLC. The site was previously used as a depot by the Council's then City Engineers Department and was subsequently demolished and cleared in 2002.

An outline planning application was submitted and approved by the Planning Committee for up to 143 dwellings on 13th December 2012. Following approval, the site was marketed for residential development by tender, with 66 requests for a tender pack. Bids were received from Helical Retail Ltd, Barratts and David Wilsons Homes PLC and Keepmoat.

The submission from Helical Retail Ltd was non-compliant, as their proposal was for a supermarket, which could not be supported by Planning Policy. The submission from Keepmoat omitted the required education contribution and the base land value was revised downwards.

The Barratts offer for the site has been approved by the Council's Valuation Panel as representing 'best value' and therefore satisfying the Council's requirement to achieve the best price reasonably obtainable in accordance with the provisions of Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- (1) Authorise the disposal of the site to Barratts.**
- (2) Delegate authority to the Assistant Director (City Centre and Development Services), in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment), any subsequent variations in terms.**
- (3) Delegate authority to officers in the Finance and Legal Service Directorate to complete the necessary legal documentation and collect the agreed consideration.**

50. Coventry City Centre Public Realm Phase 2

Cabinet had approved a second phase of public realm works at its meeting on 9th October 2012. Three schemes from that programme were successfully implemented, these being the second access to Pool Meadow, the new junction at Little Park Street and New Union Street, and the Bishop Street Pocket Park. In addition, two further schemes were underway at High Street and Spon Street.

Further to Minute 31/13 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development which indicated that a number of factors had necessitated a rethink of the remainder of the programme, these being:-

- An opportunity to bid for further European Regional Development Funding (ERDF);
- A greater focus on the City's heritage offer as a key to regeneration;
- The approval of the Friargate Bridge meant that Warwick Road would be closed at Junction 6 for much of 2014, therefore it would be necessary to ensure that other City Centre roads remained open;
- The opportunity to create a civic space in front of the Council House that was worthy of an ambitious City and set the standard for the redevelopment of the area that would be released by the move to Friargate;
- Funding for Gosford Gate had become available which provided a fantastic opportunity to provide a complete high quality route from Broadgate to Far Gosford Street and to connect into exciting proposals for Charterhouse;
- Centro had offered an additional £140k which would allow much needed improvements to Trinity Street to be brought forward; and
- The potential for sponsorship had led to a radical rethink of proposals for Lidice Place to provide a quality green space that would draw visitors into the Spon Street area.

In conjunction with the Friargate works and the Barberry Development at Bishop Street, the revised programme would see the 'medieval' cross completed to a high standard. The routes linked many of the City's key heritage and development sites and it was vital that high quality links between the sites were created to best promote the City as a great place to invest and do business.

The revised programme would not require any additional Council resources and would be managed within the resources previously reported to the Cabinet, together with additional ERDF, Centro, Homes and Communities Agency and Liveability resources secured.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- (1) Approve the revised programme of works for public realm Phase 2 as set out in Table 1.**
- (2) Delegate authority to the Cabinet Members (Public Services) and (Business, Enterprise and Employment) to agree the detailed works for schemes in Coventry 2012 Phase 2, as set out in Appendices A, B and C**

and their implementation, subject to the availability of funding.

51. Pay Policy Statement 2013-14

The City Council considered a report of the Chief Executive which sought approval to amend the Pay Policy Statement. This was required in order to facilitate organisational changes to address the changing needs of the City Council.

At the Full Council meeting on 19 March 2013 (Minute 150/13 refers), the Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14 had been approved, in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. The Pay Policy Statement referred to various issues relating to the pay of the workforce, particularly the most senior staff.

In moving the Recommendations relating to Pay Policy Statement, in accordance with paragraph 4.1.45 of the Constitution, Councillor Gannon moved the following additional Recommendation:

“The delegation under recommendation 2 above excludes any decisions on changes to salary or severance packages in relation to the Chief Executive irrespective of the sum and which will remain with full Council to determine these issues.”

At the request of Councillor Blundell, in support of his speech, a letter from the Department for Communities and Local Government on ‘Openness and Accountability in Local Pay’ (dated 20th February 2013) was tabled.

RESOLVED that the City Council

- (1) Approve the amended 2013/14 Pay Policy Statement attached at Appendix 2**
- (2) Delegate authority to the Audit and Procurement Committee to determine any salary or severance package of £100,000 or over, or such other sum as determined by legislation in respect of any new appointment or severance**
- (3) Amend the Terms of Reference for the Audit and Procurement Committee within the Constitution to reflect Recommendation 2**
- (4) The delegation under Recommendation 2 above excludes any decisions on changes to salary or severance packages in relation to the Chief Executive irrespective of the sum and which will remain with full Council to determine these issues.**

52. A New Start – Consultation on changes to the way the Care Quality Commission regulates, inspects and monitors care – Consultation Response

The City Council considered a report of the Director of Community Services which detailed the City Council's response to a Care Quality Commission (CQC) consultation on the way it regulates, inspects and monitors care. CQC was the independent regulator for health care and adult social care services in England. The ‘A New Start’ document details proposals to change the regulation and inspection framework from one with a simple

compliance focus to one based on professional, intelligence-based judgements around 'five key inspection questions' coupled with clear standards of care, including but not limited to the 'fundamentals of care' recommended by the Francis Report.

As part of the changes CQC were appointing Chief Inspectors of Hospitals, Social Care and General Practice to lead national teams of Inspectors who specialise in particular types of care. The proposed inspection teams would include independent clinical and other experts, such as people with in depth experience of using care services. A rating system would be introduced to help people compare services. It would highlight where care is good or outstanding and expose instances where care is judged as inadequate or requiring improvement.

The consultation document stated that these proposed changes would involve a phased implementation over a three year period. The initial focus during 2013/14 would be changing the way NHS and independent acute hospitals were inspected and regulated. In 2014/15 CQC would begin to change the way they inspect social care services and this would be the subject of a further consultation during the Autumn.

The proposals did not focus particularly on the potential role of inspection in identifying good quality services, although this was implied. The Council also considered that inspection processes should look at what was being done well and what people value from services as well as highlighting failures or poor quality care. Some of the proposals contained in 'A New Start' were reminiscent of intentions expressed in previous CQC documents around sharing intelligence with partners and developing better relationships with patients and service users. Following the significant controversies recently surrounding the CQC, their success as a Regulator would depend on the successful implementation of their current proposals.

Overall, the Council welcomed the proposals as significant step forward in improving the current system of regulation. Returning to a rating system for NHS Trusts and clearer more transparent inspection judgements based on five key criteria should improve the confidence of patients and service users in the services and also lead to service improvements.

RESOLVED that the City Council approve the consultation response.

53. Appointments of the City Council – Membership of the Corporate Parenting Board

The City 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 2013 to increase the membership of the Corporate Parenting Board.

RESOLVED that the City Council appoints Councillor Innes (Deputy Cabinet Member (Children and Young People)) and Councillor Howells (Deputy Cabinet Member (Education)) to the Corporate Parenting Board (which acts as the Cabinet Advisory Panel for Looked After Children) with immediate effect.

54. **Question Time**

There were no questions.

55. **Statement by the Leader**

The Leader, Councillor Mrs Lucas, made a statement in respect of Community Resilience and Community Cohesion Issues.

On Saturday 20th July 2013, a protest demonstration had taken place in Birmingham by members of the English Defence League and a counter demonstration by Unite Against Fascism. At the same time a long planned community meeting of members of the African Caribbean Community in Birmingham was due to take place. These events placed considerable pressure on West Midlands Police whose primary responsibility was to ensure the maintenance of public order and public safety. They discharged that duty with remarkable fortitude.

The Leader indicated that Coventry had a long tradition of promoting peace and reconciliation, and an ability to encourage, foster, and maintain good community relations. Enormous investment was made by members of this Council in promoting these values. But more importantly, the strength of Community Cohesion and Community Unity existed at the level at which it did because of the commitment, effort and willingness of diverse communities across this City to come together and to work together in order to achieve outcomes for the common good.

She stated an unequivocal commitment to all communities in our city and emphasised that the Council would not let any of its communities be bullied, harassed or marginalised.

The Leader thanked all those involved in recent meetings which discussed the challenges to community cohesion including the Lord Mayor, Members, Officers and representatives of local communities,

The Leader of the Opposition Group, Councillor Blundell, responded to the Statement.

56. **Debate – “Save our Royal Mail”**

Councillor B. Singh moved the following Motion which was seconded by Councillor Thay:

‘This Council recognises that the Royal Mail is part of the fabric of our nation and believes that plans for its privatisation will lead to high prices, a loss of jobs and a reduction in services for the people who need those services the most. Therefore we resolve that Coventry City Council should formally sign the “Save our Royal Mail” petition to put pressure on the Government to reverse its decision and protect the country’s postal services; and that the Leader of the Council should write to the Secretary of State for Business and Enterprise conveying the terms of this Resolution.’

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

Private Business

57. Freehold Disposal of the Former Central Depot, Foleshill, to Barratts PLC

Further to Minute 49 above and Minute 34/13 of the Cabinet, the Council considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development which detailed the confidential financial aspects of the proposals for the freehold disposal of the former Central Depot.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- (1) Authorise the disposal of the site to Barratts at the sum indicated in the report.**
- (2) Delegate authority to the Assistant Director (City Centre and Development Services), in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment) any subsequent variation in terms.**
- (3) Delegate authority to officers in the Finance and Legal Services Directorate to complete the necessary legal documentation and collect the agreed consideration.**

58. Coventry City Centre Public Realm Phase 2

Further to Minute 50 above and Minute 35/13 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development which detailed the confidential financial aspects of the proposals for the Public Realm Phase 2 works.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- (a) Approve the revised programme of works for public realm Phase 2 as set out in Table 1.**
- (b) Delegate authority to the Cabinet Members (Public Services and Business, Enterprise and Employment) to agree the detailed works for schemes in Coventry 2012 Phase 2 as set out in appendices A, B and C and their implementation subject to the availability of funding.**
- (c) Authorise the City Council to act as guarantor for a further ERDF resources to extend the current Public Realm phase 2 programme of up to a grant value of £0.5M.**
- (d) Authorise the City Council to act as guarantor for a new ERDF bid for a Public Realm phase 3 programme of up to a grant value of £1.8M, requiring match funding of £1.8m.**

- (e) Approve the Council to act as guarantor of HCA grant funding for the Gosford Gate scheme, and give delegated authority to the Directors of CSD and FLS to approve terms of the grant.**
- (f) Note the previous recommendations as well as amending the Cabinet Report 10th March 2009 so that the capital receipt generated by the Gosford Gate development can be recycled to the HCA instead of the now extinguished Advantage West Midlands.**
- (g) Authorise the City Council to act as the accountable body for the Homes and Communities Agency grant if successful in its bid for funding for the Gosford Gate scheme.**

(Meeting closed at 3.50 pm)