

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY**

Held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014, in the Council House, Coventry

## PRESENT

Lord Mayor (Councillor Crookes)

Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Noonan)

Councillor 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 Maton
Councillor Blundell	Councillor Mrs Miks
Councillor Caan	Councillor J. Mutton
Councillor Chater	Councillor Mrs M. Mutton
Councillor Clifford	Councillor O'Boyle
Councillor Duggins	Councillor Ruane
Councillor Fletcher	Councillor Sandy
Councillor Foster	Councillor Sawdon
Councillor Galliers	Councillor Sehmi
Councillor Gannon	Councillor Singh
Councillor Gingell	Councillor Skipper
Councillor Hammon	Councillor Mrs Sweet
Councillor Harvard	Councillor Taylor
Councillor Hetheron	Councillor Thay
Councillor Howells	Councillor Thomas
Councillor Innes	Councillor Townshend
Councillor Kelly	Councillor Walsh
Councillor A. Khan	Councillor Welsh

Honorary Alderman

Present:

Mr J Gazey

Apologies: Councillor Kershaw

Councillor Mulhall

Councillor Skinner

Councillor Williams

Honorary Alderman Webb

## **Public Business**

109. **Minutes**

The minutes of Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013 were signed as a true record.

#### 110. 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
132	Commercial Property Ground Lease Proposals	3

#### 111. Coventry Good Citizen Award – Mrs Gladys Wheldon

On behalf of the Council, the Lord Mayor and Judge Griffith-Jones presented Mrs Gladys Wheldon with the Coventry Good Citizen Award. Her citation read:

*“Gladys Wheldon has lived in Stoke Aldermoor for 46 years. She is well-known, well liked and an approachable member of this community with an easy going and warm personality. Her commitment to voluntary work has been truly tireless and outstanding in numerous ways, not least in the variety of projects she has been involved in, the number of people she has helped and amount of time – more than forty years - over which she has demonstrated this tireless commitment.*

*Gladys initially began improving things for the local community with sessions she ran at the Community Centre for elderly local residents. It ensured they engaged with their peers, the local community and helped counter any sense of loneliness or isolation. She has also helped to raise money for day trips for less fortunate families to ensure people had something to look forward to.*

*Her annual Christmas parties are legendary with over 50 children enjoying food, entertainment and meeting Father Christmas as a result of her year-long fundraising efforts. Testament to her ability to include all ensures that older brothers and sisters receive gifts and that parents are catered for.*

*Gladys embraces all sections of the community which is evident through the work she does at the Community and Life Centre where she engages with the local Youth Leader, organises the over 60’s club and supports other cultures by teaching local Somalian ladies to knit and sew. She not only gave these ladies a useful skill, but integrated them into the local community and increased their confidence.*

*Gladys is no fair weather volunteer she will be out in all weathers at any time of year at a car boot sale to raise much needed funds. Gladys deserves*

*this award for embodying the definition of public spirit and community service, and to ensure she has a token of the love and gratitude many have for her for all she has done for her city.*

*Gladys will always help anyone in need, the list of her achievements is endless and she is truly deserving of this Good Citizen Award.”*

## 112. **Honours List**

The Lord Mayor congratulated the following Coventry citizens who had been included in the recent New Year's Honours List.

- **MBE** to Penelope Collard, Chairman of Penderels Trust, for her services to people with disabilities.
- **MBE** to Joe Elliott, Chairman of the Trustees of Coventry Transport Museum for his services to museums.
- **OBE** to Sofina Aktar Motin Islam, Headteacher at Stanton Bridge Primary School for her services to education.
- **OBE** to Councillor Mrs Ann Lucas, the Leader of the Council, for her services to local government.

In addition, the Lord Mayor congratulated Angela Whelan who had received an **OBE** in the Birthday Honours List last June for services to Education.

The Lord Mayor had written on behalf of the City Council to all the recipients sending congratulations

## 113. **Bomb Attacks in Volgograd**

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent suicide bombings in Coventry's twin city of Volgograd over the festive period. 2014 is an important year in this relationship as Coventry and Volgograd celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning link with many events planned throughout the year to mark the occasion.

Both the Lord Mayor and the Leader of the Council had written letters of condolence to the Mayor of Volgograd.

## 114. **Death of Dr Madeleine Sharpe MBE JP**

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death of Madeleine Sharpe, former Chair of the Lord Mayor's Peace Committee for 25 years until her retirement in 2012.

Madeleine was also a GP in the Cheylesmore area for over 30 years, as well as the recipient of the Coventry Prize for Peace and Reconciliation in 2004 and a great supporter of medical and scientific aid for citizens of Vietnam and Cambodia.

Members of the City Council paid tribute to the work carried out by Madeleine over many years and expressed their condolences to her family and friends.

**115. Councillor David Kershaw**

The Lord Mayor gave an update on Councillor David Kershaw's progress following his recent illness.

Members conveyed their continuing best wishes to David and his family.

**116. Petitions**

**RESOLVED:-**

**(1) That the following petition be referred to HSBC Bank plc with the City Council's support:**

**"To urge HSBC to reconsider its decision to close the Earlsdon Street branch" - 656 signatures – presented by Councillor Hammon.**

**(2) That the following petition be referred to the appropriate City Council body:**

**"Requesting action in respect of dog fouling and general littering in Westwood Ward" – 32 signatures – submitted by Councillor Skinner and presented by Councillor Hammon in his absence.**

**117. Declarations of Interest**

The following Members declared Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in the matter referred to in Minute 125 below (International Transport Museum)

Councillor Gannon  
Councillor Hetherton  
Councillor McNicholas  
Councillor Sawdon  
Councillor Skipper

**NOTE:** The Members indicated above left the Council Chamber during the discussion and voting on this item.

**118. Commercial Property – Ground Lease Disposals**

Further to Minute 99/13 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Place, which detailed the work of the Strategic Property Review Team in identifying a list of income producing ground lease properties from within the commercial portfolio where there was an opportunity to either restructure leases to grow rental income, or dispose of the asset and use the capital receipt to pay off debt.

A corresponding private report detailing confidential financial matters was also submitted for consideration.

The Fundamental Service Review “Strategic Review of Property” A60 required the Council to save £3m per annum from its property portfolio by 2016/17. The targets could only be achieved by a combination of property solutions including rationalisation of operational property, optimisation of the commercial property portfolio and the disposal of some property assets.

**RESOLVED that the City Council:**

- (1) Approves the list of properties set out in Appendix 1 of this report for lease restructure or freehold disposal, subject to detailed terms being approved in accordance with the Council’s constitution and in compliance with Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972.**
- (2) Approves that the proceeds of any disposal be allocated to reduce debt servicing costs in accordance with the Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy, which provides that prudential borrowing should be repaid from capital receipts as they are generated.**
- (3) Approves that the savings realised through debt reduction are allocated against the savings targets for the Strategic Review of Property - Fundamental Service Review.**
- (4) Delegates authority to the Assistant Director - Property Asset Management, to approve the terms of the individual lease restructures and freehold disposals.**

**119. Council Plan 2013**

Further to Minute 95/13 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Chief Executive that sought approval of the new Coventry Council Plan.

The previous Council Plan was adopted in 2011 with progress monitored through half yearly performance reports. At the meeting of the Cabinet on 9 July 2013 (minute 29/13 referred) the Cabinet noted that whilst good progress had been made over the last two years, there were significant challenges facing the City that should be reflected in a revised plan for 2013/14 onwards. The new Plan provided the strategic direction and priorities for the Council for the next 10 years and reflected the Council’s aspirations for Coventry.

**RESOLVED that the City Council approves the new Council Plan attached as Appendix 1 to the report.**

**120. University of Warwick and Westwood Business Park Congestion Relief Scheme**

Further to Minute 90 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Place, that outlined proposals to deliver a scheme to reduce congestion, improve bus service reliability and provide improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists around the University of Warwick, Westwood Business Park and the A45.

The total package would cost £5.222m and was all externally funded: £1.725m of government grant funding from the national 'Local Pinch Point Fund', subject to a successful outcome of the bidding process; and £3.497m from the University of Warwick through planning obligations. This was a partnership scheme between Coventry City Council, the University of Warwick and the Department for Transport. To satisfy the grant conditions, work would start in January 2014 to enable completion by the middle of 2015.

**RESOLVED that the City Council:**

- (1) Approves the delivery of the University of Warwick and Westwood Business Park Congestion Relief Scheme totalling £5.222m as detailed in Sections 1 and 2 of the report.**
- (2) Approves Coventry City Council capital expenditure of £1.725m funded by external grant from the Department for Transport.**
- (3) Delegates authority to sign legally binding funding agreements with the Department for Transport and the University of Warwick, including section 151 officer sign-off, by the Executive Director, Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Public Services), for the grant funding.**

**121. Amendments to Terms of Reference for West Midlands Joint Committee**

Further to Minute 97/13 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Place, that recommended that Council approved changes to the terms of reference of the West Midlands Joint Committee (WMJC) which had been agreed by the Joint Committee, but which required approval by all constituent Districts. Consequently the same recommendation was being taken to all District's Cabinets and Councils.

Cabinet were also being asked to give authority for the Leader to support a proposal to the Secretary of States for Transport and Communities and Local Government for structural changes to the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) which the ITA intended to submit. The Department for Transport had asked that the ITA demonstrated support from all constituent Districts for the proposed structural changes, consequently the same recommendation was being taken to all District's Cabinets and Councils.

Both changes were related and would affect the governance covering transport delivery in all Wards of Coventry. The aim of the changes was to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of regional activity and to strengthen transport governance.

There were no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in the report, as the proposals only related to governance arrangements at this stage. However, the WMJC and the ITA formed key elements of the governance arrangements through which Government devolved funding to the West Midlands and onto each local authority.

**RESOLVED that the City Council:**

- (1) Accepts the amended terms of reference of the West Midlands Joint Committee as set out in Appendix 2 of the report insofar as they relate to executive functions of the Council, and that the Council Solicitor and**

**Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to take any necessary and consequential actions to give effect to this decision.**

- (2) Authorises the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to send or sign a letter of support to the relevant Secretary of States in connection with the proposed structural changes to the Integrated Transport Authority.**

## 122. Changes to the Constitution

Further to Minute 65/13 of the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities) meeting, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Resources which sought approval for significant revisions to the Constitution.

The present Constitution was still based on the Government's Model Constitution which was issued at the same time as the Local Government Act 2000 executive arrangements were introduced. Since then, the Constitution has been amended as and when necessary but it had not been comprehensively reviewed.

Given the extensive change agenda within both the Council and local government generally, it was considered the ideal time to carry out that comprehensive review with the following objectives:

- Updating the documents to reflect new practices and procedures including updating procurement/contractual requirements and financial thresholds.
- Removing references, wherever possible, to specific legislation to prevent the documents from going out of date as quickly.
- Rationalising and updating the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.
- Removing unnecessary documents from the Constitution.

The main changes to the Constitution were set out in Section 2 of the report and are summarised as follows:

- The organisation of sections was now clearer and more straightforward.
- Part 2 (Articles) had been deleted and any sections not already replicated elsewhere in the Constitution have been inserted into the relevant Part.
- New Part 2 (Terms of Reference for Cabinet and Committees and Delegations to Officers) with extensive revisions to officer delegations to remove long lists of statutes and give more generic delegations. The Scheme has been amended to reflect the recent changes to directorates and senior management.
- New Part 3 (Procedure Rules). These had been updated where needed and unnecessary rules removed. In particular, the Rules for Contract and Financial Procedure Rules had been extensively revised.
- New Part 4 (Codes and Protocols). Codes and Protocols which do not need to be in the Constitution had been removed.
- New Part 5 (Members Allowance Scheme), which is the latest approved scheme.
- New Part 6 (Management Structure) which had been revised to show the new Strategic Management Board.

- Part 8 (Procedural Matters) had been deleted and its provisions included elsewhere, where appropriate.

Following further consideration of this issue since the meeting of the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities) on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2013, together with representations made by Councillors Blundell and Sawdon at the meeting, the Cabinet Member recommended that Council also approve the following:-

- The deletion of Recommendation (1) (c) from the meeting of the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities) held on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 which proposed a reduction in the capital and revenue budget virements for decisions by Directors from £0.25m to £0.05m.
- The implementation date of the new Constitution being delegated to the Assistant Director, Legal & Democratic Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities) and Shadow Cabinet Member.
- Where there is not enough time for consultation papers to be considered by Council or Cabinet, in addition to the Leader, appropriate Cabinet Member and appropriate Director, that the appropriate Shadow Cabinet Member be also consulted in relation to a response.
- The deletion of the proposal in paragraph 2.3.5 of the report to remove the requirement in paragraph 3.2.11 of the Constitution that all private reports must be accompanied by a corresponding public report.

**RESOLVED that the City Council:**

- (1) Approves the changes set out in Section 2.2 of the report, including the additional changes recommended by the Constitutional Advisory Panel and by Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee subject to the following amendments:**
  - (a) In paragraph 2.2.7 (final bullet point), the power of the Leader to exercise executive decision-making powers in specified circumstances be in consultation with the Deputy Leader and/or the Deputy Cabinet Member where appropriate.**
  - (b) In paragraph 2.3.2, the Policy Framework consists of the plans policies and strategies that are required by law together with:**
    - the Housing and Homeless Strategy
    - the Council Plan
    - the Emergency Plan
  - (c) In paragraph 3.6.2 (financial thresholds), for grant income above £0.5m up to £2.5m, where time does not permit a formal report to Cabinet or to the Cabinet Member, delegated power be given to the appropriate director in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member and relevant Scrutiny Chair.**



- (d) In paragraph 2.1.6, where there is not enough time for Government Consultation papers to be considered by Council or Cabinet, in addition to the Leader, appropriate Cabinet Member and appropriate Director, the appropriate Shadow Cabinet Member be also consulted in relation to a response.
- (2) Approves the changes set out in Section 2.3 of the report subject to the following amendments:
- (a) The power to prosecute in connection with matters within the terms of reference of Licensing and Regulatory Committee should not be extended to allow officers to institute proceedings without the consent of the Committee, in line with current constitutional requirements.
  - (b) The terms of reference of the Planning Committee and Scheme of Delegation of Officers should be amended to require all proposed prosecutions for matters within the terms of reference of the Committee to be first approved by the Committee.
  - (c) The deletion of the proposal in paragraph 2.3.5 of the report to remove the requirement in paragraph 3.2.11 of the Constitution that all private reports must be accompanied by a corresponding public report.
- (3) The Table of Financial Thresholds set out in Appendix 3 to the report be amended in accordance with the recommendations of the Cabinet Member.
- (4) The Procurement Governance Flowchart attached as Appendix 4 to the report be amended to show contracts with an annual value of over £1m being referred to "Cabinet" only, rather than to "Cabinet/Cabinet Member (dependent on financial thresholds)".
- (5) A report on the operation of the revised Constitution be submitted to the Constitutional Advisory Panel, Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities), (in that order to allow any recommendations to be forwarded to Cabinet Member) six months following implementation.
- (6) Approves that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services to make minor amendments to the Constitution in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities) and the Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee subject to a report on any such changes being submitted to the next available meeting of full Council.
- (7) Approves that authority to determine the implementation date of the new Constitution be delegated to the Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities) and the Shadow Cabinet Member (Communities Safety and

**Equalities) in order to ensure that all the preparatory requirements are completed.**

**123. Increasing Pupil Places Programme 2014 Phase 2: Corpus Christi, Hollyfast, Little Heath, Park Hill and Whitley Abbey**

Further to Minute 112/13 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Director of Education and Inclusion which set out proposals for Phase 2 of the Increasing Pupil Places Programme 2014.

The Increasing Pupil Places Programme 2014 involved ten schools. The first five schools were approved by the Cabinet as Phase 1 in June 2013. These schools were Aldermoor Farm Primary School, Broad Heath Primary School, Clifford Bridge Primary School, Coundon Primary School and Frederick Bird Primary School. Approval was now sought for the proposals and capital funding of a further five schools under phase 2 of the programme, these being Corpus Christi, Hollyfast, Little Heath, Park Hill and Whitley Abbey Primary Schools.

An Official Journal of the European Community (OJEU) tender process was carried out between February and May 2013 to select a consultant design team and partnering contractor. Associated Architects (lead consultants) and Wates Construction (partnering contractor) had developed the extension proposals in collaboration with key stakeholders. Planning applications had been submitted in October 2013 for all five schools. Enabling works would be completed in time for the schools to increase their intake capacity from September 2014 and the main construction works completed for January 2015. The report submitted detailed the specific proposals for each of the five schools and, appended to the report, were illustrations of the designs for each of the schools.

It was estimated that the total costs, based on the scheme design proposals, would £12,326,157. This was to be funded by a mixture of existing and future Central Government allocations and other grants.

**RESOLVED that the City Council:**

- (1) Approves plans for the extensions and modifications to Corpus Christi, Hollyfast, Little Heath, Park Hill and Whitley Abbey Primary Schools in line with the proposals included in the report.**
- (2) Approves the programme of £12,326,157 by the City Council to include expenditure for the extensions and modifications to Corpus Christi, Hollyfast, Little Heath, Park Hill and Whitley Abbey Primary Schools and Park Hill Play Group as set out in Table 5.1.2. of the report.**

**124. Polling District and Polling Place Review – Update**

Further to Minute 113/13 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Resources, which set out the outcome of a review of parliamentary polling places and proposed a revised polling district and polling place scheme for Coventry.

The report indicated that Section 18C(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA 1983) placed a duty on all UK local authorities to review their parliamentary polling places within 18 months of a Parliamentary Election. The Electoral Commission had advised that the formal review process must take place between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013 and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015, and no part of the formal review could be carried out before 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013. In view of this advice, the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities) Electoral Arrangements Advisory Panel agreed a timetable for the review. The notice of the review was published on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

The annual audit of electors was currently being conducted, with the revised register being published on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014. The review needed to be completed in sufficient time to allow the revised register to be published using the revised polling districts, and allowing adequate time to book polling stations for the local and European parliamentary elections in 2014.

The Appendices to the report set out the Draft Revised Polling District and Polling Place Scheme; suggested roads/properties to be moved from one polling district to another; provided maps detailing the suggested polling district boundaries with the future proposed polling district names for the 18 wards; responses to the consultation; and the Acting Returning Officer's recommendations regarding polling stations together with any comments received from the Ward Councillors

Since publication of the report, one of the proposed polling places within Bablake Ward had become unavailable (districts Aa and Ac). The Cabinet Member therefore recommended that approval of the polling place for polling districts Aa and Ac, together with any further temporary amendments to the scheme, be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader, Opposition Leader and appropriate Ward Members.

**RESOLVED that the City Council approve the following recommendations:**

- (1) That the Council approve the revised polling district and polling place scheme with the exception of the polling place for polling districts Aa and Ac.**
- (2) That the approval of the polling place for polling districts Aa and Ac, together with the approval of any temporary amendments to the scheme for the 2014 elections for any further polling places that may become unavailable prior to the election, be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader, Leader of the Opposition and the appropriate Ward Members.**

## **125. International Transport Museum**

Further to Minute 114/13 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Place, which sought approval for the provision of unsecured cash-flow support of up to £2m to Culture Coventry for the duration of works, in advance of receipt of grants, for the International Transport Museum scheme.

The International Transport Museum scheme comprised a significant development of

one of Coventry's key cultural assets, the Coventry Transport Museum. The scheme would include bringing back into economic use the Old Grammar School, one of Coventry's most important historic buildings, which was currently unused and on the English Heritage 'At Risk' Register.

It was expected that the project would re-fresh and further energise the cultural offer and visitor experience at Coventry Transport Museum, enabling the museum to reflect the depth of Coventry's role in pushing the frontiers of transportation manufacturing, whilst at the same time stimulating interest in emerging new technologies. The development would deliver a much-enhanced, ground breaking museum which would build on Coventry's role as a centre of innovation in world transportation, to attract new visitors to the City.

Subject to award, on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013 Cabinet gave approval for the Council to act as guarantor for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant contribution for the scheme. ERDF funding of £3.1m and Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £4.63m had been secured for the scheme, but the grant could only be claimed retrospectively in phases, on evidence of expenditure. Further to analysis of the grant funding profile and its wider business plan, Culture Coventry had therefore requested that the Council provide cash-flow support for the scheme to enable its successful delivery.

Within the current profile for the scheme, Council cash-flow support to Culture Coventry would be required from April 2014 at an initial level of £0.25m, rising to a peak of £2m in January 2015. Full reimbursement of the cash-flow support provided would be anticipated by June 2015 by the retention of grant payments by the Council to repay the cash flow support.

**RESOLVED that the City Council:**

- (1) Approves the provision of unsecured cash-flow support of up to £2m to Culture Coventry for the duration of the works, in advance of receipt of grants for the International Transport Museum scheme.**
- (2) Delegates authority to the Executive Director, Place and Executive Director, Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Housing and Heritage) to approve the profile and timing of cash-flow support to Culture Coventry to successfully deliver the development scheme.**

**126. Coventry and Warwickshire Sub-Regional Joint Committee**

Further to Minute 115/13 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Chief Executive, which sought approval for the establishment of a Sub-Regional Joint Committee for Coventry and Warwickshire.

Coventry City Council worked closely with a number of other local authorities and other organisations to promote the economic growth and prosperity of Coventry. Local economic geography along with Government policy on economic growth, including the establishment of the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), had led to increased partnership working between the seven local authorities in Coventry and Warwickshire along with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

The delivery of a Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal and the future allocation of Government local growth funding both require the establishment of formal local government arrangements at a sub-regional level. After consideration of the governance options that were available to the sub-region, it was proposed that a sub-regional Joint Committee be set up to address economic development, regeneration and strategic planning at a sub-regional level, with the view towards moving to a sub-regional Economic Prosperity Board when this is possible.

Appendix 1 of the report set out the recommended draft terms of reference for the Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Committee and it was proposed that authority be delegated to the Leader of the Council to agree any final outstanding details with the other members of the Joint Committee.

It was expected that Local Authorities be represented on the Joint Committee by the Leader of the Council. The draft terms of reference required each council to appoint a named substitute elected member. It was recommended that Coventry should nominate the Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment) to be the Council's named substitute.

**RESOLVED that the City Council:**

- (1) Approves the establishment of Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Committee to address economic development, regeneration and strategic planning at a sub-regional level.**
- (2) Approves the draft terms of reference set out in appendix 1 in principle, and delegate authority to the Leader of the Council to agree final details with the other local authorities on the Joint Committee.**
- (3) Agrees that there is potential to widen the remit of the Joint Committee over time with the agreement of the constituent local authorities.**
- (4) Approves that the Leader should represent Coventry City Council on the Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Committee with the Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment) as named substitute member.**
- (5) Endorses the approach of moving towards a sub-regional Economic Prosperity Board when this is possible.**

**127. Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive which sought endorsement of the Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal and approval of the cost sharing proposals for local authority partners.

Coventry and Warwickshire was one of 20 areas that were invited to take part in the second wave of City Deals. The purpose of City Deals was to drive local economic growth and jobs with each one a "bespoke" agreement between a local area and central Government that reflected the different needs of the local area's functional economic geography.

The Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal (the City Deal) focused on the advanced manufacturing and engineering sector and aimed to promote sustained economic growth and create jobs in the sub region. The City Deal would establish a Coventry and Warwickshire Business Support Clearing House that would deliver a range of bespoke business support services to support local businesses to grow and create local jobs by assisting them to invest in skills; supporting innovation through better access to research and development; and by supporting them to access both finance and development opportunities.

The Clearing House would be a subsidiary company limited by guarantee of the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP). The Clearing House Managing Director would report directly to the CWLEP, who would manage the day to day operations. Councils through the Joint Committee would be able to hold the CWLEP to account on the outcomes of the Clearing House. The accountable body would be a Local Authority given responsibility for the funding used to support the City Deal.

The expected outcomes of the City Deal included over 15,000 new jobs by 2025 (including 8,800 in the advanced manufacturing and engineering sector); support for growth in 450 companies; and a new motor test track for the automotive sector at Fen End in Warwickshire. The City Deal included £25m of public sector investment and over £67m of private sector investment.

After extensive negotiations the Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal has been agreed between central Government and CWLEP; the seven local authorities in Coventry and Warwickshire and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. As part of the City Deal the eight local authorities will set up a Joint Committee to provide robust governance arrangements for the City Deal.

The proposed local authority financial contribution to the City Deal was a total of £1,123,202 made up from contributions from all eight local authorities. Coventry City Council's contribution of £0.48m and Warwickshire County Council's contribution of £0.53m make up the most of the funding, with each of the District Councils contributing to the rest. The funding allocation was set out in more detail in appendix 2 to the report.

**RESOLVED that the Council:**

- (1) Agrees that Coventry City Council should formally endorse the Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal set out in Appendix 1.**
- (2) Approves the cost sharing proposal as recommended by the Chief Financial (section 151) Officers of the City Deal local authority partners as detailed in the main body of the report and in Appendix 2. Costs range from £1.1m to be met from local authority partners in year 1 with on-going costs rising to £3.2m (year 5) which will be met by the CWLEP partners on the basis that contributions from private sector partners and grant funding being pursued are forthcoming.**
- (3) Agrees to fund the Council's share of the estimated costs of City Deal of £0.48m to support the year 1 operating costs.**

**(4) Supports the approach of applying to European Union and Single Local Growth Fund sources of funding to support the on-going costs for City Deal taking into account any match funding requirements.**

**128. Appointments of the City Council: Annie Bettmann Foundation**

The City Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Resources which sought approval for the appointment of an additional trustee for the Annie Bettmann Foundation.

The Annie Bettmann Foundation was a charity providing financial help to people in the Coventry area who were either starting a business or completing their education with a view to starting a business.

The City Council has sole power to appoint trustees to the Foundation who need not be elected members. A minimum of 4 and maximum of 6 must be appointed. At its Annual Meeting on 16 May 2013, the Council appointed 5 trustees (including 3 elected members) with a term of office to expire in May 2017.

The Trustees have met and consider it would be helpful to have an additional trustee. His Honour Judge Donald Hamilton (now retired) was suggested by the Trustees as an additional trustee He has been approached informally and indicated that he is willing to serve.

**RESOLVED that the City Council appoints His Honour Donald Hamilton (retired) as an additional trustee of the Annie Bettmann Foundation (No. 1 and No. 2), with the term of office starting with immediate effect and ending at the same time as the other trustees in May 2017.**

**129. Question Time**

The following Members answered oral questions put to them by other Members as set out below, together with supplementary questions on the same matters:

<b>No</b>	<b>Question Asked By</b>	<b>Question Put To</b>	<b>Subject Matter</b>
1	Councillor Andrews	Councillor A Khan	increase in the cost of Electricity bills during the last Labour Government
2	Councillor Blundell	Councillor A Khan	Whether or not fuel poverty had doubled under the last Labour Government
3	Councillor Noonan	Councillor A Khan	How many energy tariffs had existed under the last Labour Government
4	Councillor Sawdon	Councillor A Khan	Councillor Khan's position on the

			Labour Party proposals to change the way energy pricing works
5	Councillor Taylor	Councillor Kelly	Enquired as to when a report on HIMO's would be available
6	Councillor Taylor	Councillor A Khan	Labour's proposal to introduce another Quango in relation to energy costs
7	Councillor Lepoidevin	Councillor Chater	Grangehurst School / Governance
8	Councillor Lepoidevin	Councillor Duggins	Ofsted Inspection Childrens Services
9	Councillor Blundell	Councillor Chater	Safeguarding in Schools
10	Councillor Noonan	Councillor A Khan	Fracking
11	Councillor Hammon	Councillor Lancaster	Kenilworth Junction – traffic delays
12	Councillor Hammon	Councillor Lancaster	Tree, Greyfriars Green
13	Councillor Hammon	Councillor A Khan	Councillor Khan's position on an energy price freeze.
14	Councillor Blundell	Councillor Chater	Coventry's share of the Pupil Premium

### 130. **Statements by the Leader**

The Leader, Councillor Mrs Lucas, made a statement in respect of "The Ricoh Arena".

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

### 131. **Debate – Energy Market**

Councillor A Khan moved the following Motion which was seconded by Councillor Ruane:

"That this Council:

- (a) Believes Britain's energy market isn't working for ordinary families and businesses and the cost of electricity and gas is crippling their family finances;



- (b) regrets that energy bills have risen by almost £300 for families since 2010 and businesses say it's the second biggest cost they face and is concerned that when the price of energy increases energy companies pass this on, but when it drops consumers don't see their bills fall;
- (c) notes recent research by Which? estimating that flaws in the market have left consumers paying £3.9bn a year over the odds since 2010;
- (d) fully opposes the unfair price rises recently announced by the big energy companies including a 10.4% increase in Npower's dual-fuel bills from December, SSE increasing prices by 8.2% from 15th November, British Gas increasing their prices by 9.2% on 23rd November and Scottish Power raising prices by 8.6% from 6th December;
- (e) notes comments from the Chief Executive of Citizens Advice speaking about the SSE increase "The price rise will be a blow for stretched budgets ... Many households are facing a daily battle to try to make their frozen incomes cover mounting energy, food and travel costs. Further increases will push people into poverty;
- (f) believes that the increases represent a rip-off and believes that the present Government have chosen to defend the big energy companies and have failed to stand up for the consumer;
- (g) further welcomes the commitment that the next Labour Government will reset our energy market so it works for Britain's families and businesses, with a new tough regulator to stop overcharging."

An amendment, a copy of which is appended to these minutes, was moved by Councillor Hammon, seconded by Councillor Lepoidevin and lost.

**RESOLVED that the Motion, detailed above, as proposed by Councillor A Khan and seconded by Councillor Ruane, be adopted.**

Note: In respect of the above, a recorded vote was required in accordance with paragraph 4.1.75 of the City Council's Constitution. The Councillors voting for and against the amendment were as follows:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Councillor Abbott	Councillor Blundell	
Councillor Ali	Councillor Foster	
Councillor Akhtar	Councillor Hammon	
Councillor Auluck	Councillor Noonan	
Councillor Bains	Councillor Sawdon	
Councillor Mrs Bigham	Councillor Taylor	
Councillor Caan	Lord Mayor	
Councillor Chater		
Councillor Clifford		
Councillor Duggins		

Councillor Mrs Fletcher  
Councillor Galliers  
Councillor Gannon  
Councillor Gingell  
Councillor Harvard  
Councillor Mrs Hetherton  
Councillor Howells  
Councillor Innes  
Councillor A Khan  
Councillor T Khan  
Councillor Lakha  
Councillor Mrs Lucas  
Councillor Maton  
Councillor Miks  
Councillor J Mutton  
Councillor Mrs M Mutton  
Councillor O'Boyle  
Councillor Ruane  
Councillor Sandy  
Councillor Singh Sehmi  
Councillor Skipper  
Councillor Sweet  
Councillor Thay  
Councillor Thomas  
Councillor Townshend  
Councillor Walsh  
Councillor Welsh

Result: 37 for  
7 against  
0 abstentions

### **Private Business**

#### **132. Commercial Property Ground Lease Disposals**

Further to Minute 118/13 above, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Place, which detailed confidential financial matters in relation to the list of income producing ground lease properties from within the commercial portfolio where there was an opportunity to either restructure leases to grow rental income, or dispose of the asset and use the capital receipt to pay off debt.

**RESOLVED that the City Council:**

- (1) Approves the list of properties set out in Appendix 1 of the report for lease restructure or freehold disposal, subject to detailed terms being approved in accordance with the Council's constitution and in compliance with Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972.**

- (2) Approves that the proceeds of any disposal be allocated to reduce debt servicing costs in accordance with the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, which provides that prudential borrowing should be repaid from capital receipts as they are generated.**
- (3) Approves that the savings realised through debt reduction are allocated against the savings targets for the Strategic Review of Property – Fundamental Service Review.**
- (4) Delegates authority to the Assistant Director Property Asset Management to approve the terms of the individual lease restructures and freehold disposals.**

(Meeting closed at 6.10 pm)