

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

Held on 25th February 2014, in the Council House, Coventry

PRESENT

Lord Mayor (Councillor Crookes)

Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Noonan)

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

Honorary Alderman

Present:

Mr J Gazey
Mrs J Wight

Apologies: Councillor Chater
Councillor Harvard
Councillor Skipper
Honorary Alderman Webb

Public Business

133. Minutes

The minutes of Meeting held on 14th January 2014 were signed as a true record.

134. 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 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 Paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
148	Friargate Bridge – Additional Works	3

135. Coventry Good Citizen Award – Mr Pete Chambers

On behalf of the Council, the Lord Mayor presented Mr Pete Chambers with the Coventry Good Citizen Award. His citation read:

“For a number of years Pete Chambers has done much valuable work to celebrate and promote cultural achievement in Coventry. He has written six books on the local music scene, plus numerous articles in his Coventry Telegraph column.

The renowned Coventry ‘2-Tone’ has always received ‘special’ attention from him. He initiated and delivered the 2-Tone Trail series of plaques to honour the achievements of the 2-Tone record label and the associated artists at key local historical sites.

He also initiated the Coventry Walk of Fame to pay tribute to some of Coventry's well-known citizens who have made a positive and lasting contribution to the City. Pete has the ideas and in the end he delivers. His projects have successfully raised the profile of Coventry artists and their achievements and also provided a lasting memorial to them.

Pete has always given support and encouragement to up and coming local talent. Indeed, many young Coventry bands have benefitted from his positive backing.

His most recent success and without doubt his biggest pride is the Coventry Music Museum. This has been a long term dream and an achievement that is being given national recognition and acclaim. This unique project will be a lasting celebration of Coventry's music heritage.

Pete has not done all this in pursuit of his day-to-day business activity, financial gain or an employment commitment. His efforts have been driven by a genuine

passion and pride in Coventry and its citizens. Recognition of Pete Chambers' efforts is long overdue and today we gather to salute his hard work and his dedication to Coventry."

136. Councillor David Kershaw

The Lord Mayor welcomed Councillor Kershaw back to the Council Chamber following a period of absence due to illness and wished him continued good health.

137. Lord Mayor's Charity Concert

The City Council noted that the Lord Mayor's Charity Concert would be held at the University of Warwick Arts Centre on Tuesday evening 4th March 2014.

138. Petitions

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

- (a) Request that the City Council reconsider enforcement action against a property in the Allesley area - 42 signatures – presented by Councillor Howells.**
- (b) Request for a loading/unloading bay on King William Street – 42 signatures – presented by Councillor Akhtar**

139. Declarations of Interest

The following Members declared Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) in the matters indicated:

- (a) Councillor Abbott, Minutes 141 and 142 (Council Tax Setting Report 2014/15 and Budget Report 2014/15) – Cllr Abbott's DPI was in respect of the Conservative Group's Amendment only. She left the Chamber during discussion and voting on the amendment.**
- (b) Councillor Hammon, Minute 145 (High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands)) Bill. Councillor Hammon left the Chamber during the discussion and voting on this item.**

140. Motions Without Notice

(a) In accordance with Paragraph 4.1.35.5 of the City Council's Constitution, a Motion without Notice was moved by Councillor Townshend, seconded by Councillor Fletcher and adopted to combine the debates on agenda items 8 (2014/15 Council Tax Setting report) and 9 (Budget Report 2014/15). Minutes 141 and 142 below refer.

(b) In accordance with paragraph 4.1.74 of the City Council's Constitution, it was moved by Councillor Blundell and seconded by Councillor Andrews that a

recorded vote be taken in respect of all decisions relating to 8 (2014/15 Council Tax Setting report) and 9 (Budget Report 2014/15). Minutes 141 and 142 refer.

141. Council Tax Setting Report 2014/15

Further to Minute 134/13 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Resources, which calculated the Council Tax level for 2014/15.

The report indicated that the Pre-Budget report was approved on the basis of consulting on a Council Tax rise of just below 2%. It was noted that the Government had legislated that the rise must be below 2% to avoid triggering a referendum and, on that basis, the budget was being proposed based on an increase of the City's Council Tax by 1.94%

The precepts from the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner and the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority were approved at their meetings on 13th February 2014 and 17th February respectively, and, as a result, the figures indicated as provisional within the report were now confirmed.

The recommendations followed the structure of resolutions drawn up by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, to ensure that legal requirements were fully adhered to in setting the tax. As a consequence, the wording of the proposed resolution was necessarily complex.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

(1) Note the following Council Tax base amounts for the year 2014/15, as approved by Cabinet on 7th January 2014, in accordance with Regulations made under Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) ("the Act"):

(a) 73,201.0 being the amount calculated by the Council as its Council Tax base for the year for the whole Council area;

(b) Allesley	298.3
Keresley	208.9

being the amounts calculated by the Council as its Council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(2) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2014/15 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Act:

(a) £714,815,082 being the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils (*Gross Expenditure and reserves required to be raised for estimated future expenditure*);

(b) £616,026,999 being the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act (*Gross Income including reserves to be used to meet the Gross Expenditure but excluding Council Tax income*);

(c) £98,788,083 being the amount by which the aggregate at (2)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (2)(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year;

(d) £1,349.55 $\frac{(2)(c)}{(1)(a)} = \frac{£98,788,083}{73,201.0}$

being the amount at (2)(c) above divided by the amount at (1)(a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council for the year (*Average Council Tax at Band D for the City including Parish Precepts*).

(e) £4,798.00 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (*Parish Precepts*);

(f) £1,349.48 $= \frac{(2)(d) - (2)(e)}{(1)(a)} = \frac{£1,349.55 - £4,798.00}{73,201.0}$

being the amount at (2)(d) above, less the result given by dividing the amount at (2)(e) above by the amounts at (1)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which no special items relate (*Council Tax at Band D for the City excluding Parish Precepts*);

(g) Coventry Unparished Area	£1,349.48
Allesley	£1,359.79
Keresley	£1,357.73

being the amounts given by adding to the amounts at (2)(f) above, the amounts of the special item or item relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at (1)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate (*Council Taxes at band D for the City and Parish*).

(h)

Valuation Band	Parts to which no special Item relates	Parish of Allesley	Parish of Keresley
	£	£	£

A	899.65	906.52	905.15
B	1049.60	1057.62	1056.02
C	1199.54	1208.70	1206.87
D	1349.48	1359.79	1357.73
E	1649.36	1661.96	1659.44
F	1949.25	1964.14	1961.17
G	2249.13	2266.31	2262.88
H	2698.96	2719.58	2715.46

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (2)(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (3) Note that for the year 2014/15 the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner and the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Band	West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner £	West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority £
A	69.65	35.91
B	81.25	41.90
C	92.86	47.88
D	104.47	53.87
E	127.69	65.84
F	150.90	77.81
G	174.12	89.78
H	208.94	107.73

- (4) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(h) and (3) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 and 36 of the Act, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2014/15 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Band	Parts to which no special item relates £	Parish of Allesley £	Parish of Keresley £
A	1005.21	1012.08	1010.71
B	1172.75	1180.77	1179.17
C	1340.28	1349.44	1347.61
D	1507.82	1518.13	1516.07

E	1842.89	1855.49	1852.97
F	2177.96	2192.85	2189.88
G	2513.03	2530.21	2526.78
H	3015.63	3036.25	3032.13

- (5) That the Council determines that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2014/15 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Sections 52ZC and 52ZD of the Act.**

142. Budget Report 2014/15

Further to Minute 135/13 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Strategic Management Board, which outlined the proposed final revenue budget for 2014/15, following a period of consultation on a range of budget options which were previously considered by the Cabinet on 10th December 2013.

2014/15 was the final year of four covered by the 2010 Spending Review which set out the Government's spending plans and incorporated significant reductions in the real level of resources available to local government. Over the course of the last year, this had been updated by the Chancellor's Spending Round announcement on 26th June 2013, the Autumn Statement released on 5th December 2013 and the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2014/15 which was announced on 5th February 2014. The net effect of these announcements was to make some further reductions to the Government grant resources available to the Council for 2014/15 but to signal further very large cuts to 2015/16 and beyond.

The net impact of this period of austerity could be best demonstrated at a local level. In overall terms, the cuts in Government funding had led to a reduction of £324 for every Coventry household between 2010/11 and 2014/15, in the amount that the Council has available to spend.

In line with its Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Council has continued to meet the challenge of significantly reduced resources through its abc programme of transformation projects. The report confirmed the fundamental importance of the Council achieving the existing three year abc savings programme within the Budget presented for 2014/15. The report also recommended approval of a range of expenditure and savings proposals that together produced a balanced budget.

The package of changes allowed the Council to continue to deliver its key policies, confirmed in the Council Plan approved by Council on 14th January 2014. However, national spending plans meant that local government would not be able to sustain the current range and level of services in the future. As a result, the Council would need to revise its expectations and those of the citizens and taxpayers of the City as the period of austerity continued.

The report also included a revised Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR) Policy, following a period of consultation. The new policy sought to provide support to those organisations that best met the priorities that the Council wants to promote, whilst also offering a fair and transparent system to local tax payers. However, this meant that some organisations that

had previously received DRR may receive a lower amount or nil discretionary relief in the future. The new policy would not come into force until April 2015.

The Council recognised that the years beyond 2014/15 would bring further major financial challenges that would require further cuts in expenditure and changes to the way that some services were delivered. It was intended that further engagement with local people be undertaken over the coming year to see how best some of these changes could be implemented. In the meantime, the Council was committed to placing itself in the best possible position by taking a positive approach to the new environment that local government was working in. These new circumstances were characterised by a reducing reliance on government resources and greater incentivisation to grow local business rates and retain a share in that growth.

The Council's approach therefore included, but was not restricted to, Kickstarting the Friargate business district, implementing the Coventry Investment Fund proposals, leading the drive for economic growth and regeneration and supporting the sub-regional City Deal Initiative. The majority of the financial foundations for taking forward these initiatives had already been approved as part of existing decisions and were therefore not subject to specific recommendations within the report submitted.

The report proposed a budget consistent with a rise in Council Tax levels just below the limit set by Government, beyond which a referendum would be required. This referendum limit had been set at 2% and the Council Tax rise would therefore be 1.9%. This option made a modest amount of resources available to the Council in the short-term and guaranteed the long-term security of this level of funding to help protect services provided to the people of Coventry.

The report also included a proposed Capital Programme of £142m for 2014/15 and future years' commitments arising from the programme of £212m in 2015/16 to 2018/19. The proposals included very significant and largely grant funded investment in the City's schools and highways investment programmes, together with continued essential spending in relation to property and ICT.

The Council was also required to approve its Treasury Management Strategy, its revised Investment Strategy and Prudential Indicators and these were incorporated within the report submitted.

An amendment, as detailed in the Appendix to these minutes, was moved by Councillor Sawdon, seconded by Councillor Blundell and lost.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- (1) Approve the final spending and savings proposals in Appendix 2**
- (2) Approve the total 2014/15 revenue budget of £258.5m as detailed in Table 1 and Appendix 3, established in line with a 1.9% City Council Tax increase and the Council Tax Requirement recommended in the Council Tax Setting Report.**

- (3) **Note the Executive Director, Resources' comments confirming the robustness of the budget and adequacy of reserves, as detailed in section 9 of the report.**
- (4) **Approve the Capital Programme of £142m for 2014/15 and the future years' commitments arising from the programme of £212m in 2015/16 to 2018/19, as detailed in Section 6 and Appendix 4 of the report.**
- (5) **Approve the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2014/15, as detailed in Section 7 of the report, the revised Investment Strategy and Policy, detailed at Appendix 5 of the report, for immediate implementation and the Prudential Indicators and limits, as described in Section 7 and summarised in Appendix 6 of the report.**
- (6) **Approve the Non Domestic Rate Discretionary Relief Policy for Charitable and Non Profit Making Organisations, attached as Appendix 7 to the report.**

Notes:

- (a) In accordance with Minute 140(b) above, a recorded vote was taken in respect of the amendment referred to in Minute 141 and 142 above

The Councillors voting for and against the amendment were as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
Councillor Andrews	Councillor Ali	
Councillor Blundell	Councillor Akhtar	
Councillor Foster	Councillor Auluck	
Councillor Hammon	Councillor Bains	
Councillor Lepoidevin	Councillor Mrs Bigham	
Coounillor Noonan	Councillor Caan	
Councillor Sawdon	Councillor Clifford	
Councillor Skinner	Councillor Duggins	
Councillor Taylor	Councillor Fletcher	
Councillor Williams	Councillor Galliers	
Lord Mayor	Councillor Gannon	
	Councillor Gingell	
	Councillor Hetherton	
	Councillor Howells	
	Councillor Innes	
	Councillor Kelly	
	Councillor Kershaw	
	Councillor A Khan	
	Councillor T Khan	
	Councillor Lakha	
	Councillor Lancaster	
	Councillor Mrs Lucas	
	Councillor McNicholas	
	Councillor Maton	
	Councillor Miks	
	Councillor Mulhall	

Councillor J Mutton
 Councillor M Mutton
 Councillor O'Boyle
 Councillor Ruane
 Councillor Sandy
 Councillor B Singh
 Councillor Singh Sehmi
 Councillor Sweet
 Councillor Thay
 Councillor Thomas
 Councillor Townshend
 Councillor Walsh
 Councillor Welsh

Result: 39 for
 11 against
 0 abstentions

(b) In accordance with Minute 140(b) above, a recorded vote was taken in respect of the substantive motion referred to in Minute 141 and 142 above

The Councillors voting for and against the substantive motion were as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
Councillor Abbott	Councillor Andrews	
Councillor Ali	Councillor Blundell	
Councillor Akhtar	Councillor Foster	
Councillor Auluck	Councillor Hammon	
Councillor Bains	Councillor Lepoidevin	
Councillor Mrs Bigham	Councillor Noonan	
Councillor Caan	Councillor Sawdon	
Councillor Clifford	Councillor Skinner	
Councillor Duggins	Councillor Taylor	
Councillor Fletcher	Councillor Williams	
Councillor Galliers	Lord Mayor	
Councillor Gannon		
Councillor Gingell		
Councillor Hetheron		
Councillor Howells		
Councillor Innes		
Councillor Kelly		
Councillor Kershaw		
Councillor A Khan		
Councillor T Khan		
Councillor Lakha		
Councillor Lancaster		
Councillor Mrs Lucas		
Councillor McNicholas		

Councillor Maton
Councillor Mrs Miks
Councillor Mulhall
Councillor J Mutton
Councillor M Mutton
Councillor O'Boyle
Councillor Ruane
Councillor Sandy
Councillor B Singh
Councillor Singh Sehmi
Councillor Mrs Sweet
Councillor Thay
Councillor Thomas
Councillor Townshend
Councillor Walsh
Councillor Welsh

Result: 40 for
11 against
0 abstentions

143. **Appointment of Independent Person**

Further to Minute 6/13 of the Ethics Committee, the City Council considered a report of the Assistant Director (Legal and Democratic Services), which sought approval to appoint an independent person to serve on the Ethics Committee.

The Localism Act 2011 required the Council to appoint at least one independent person whose views would be sought when making decisions about allegations that councillors had breached the Council's Code of Conduct.

The Act required councils to have in place arrangements to investigate and make decisions on allegations that a councillor had breached the code of conduct. The arrangements to make decisions on allegations must include provision for the appointment of one or more 'independent person' through a transparent process, by advertisement and application. A Member, Co-opted Member or Officer of the authority or a relative or close friend of such person cannot be appointed as an 'independent person'.

It was noted that the interviews were held on 21st January 2014 and the Interview Panel decided to recommend the appointment of Mr Ken Sloan.

Under Section 2.9.1.6 of the Council's Constitution, it was required that any appointment of the independent person approved by Full Council.

RESOLVED that the City Council appoint Mr Ken Sloan, as the Independent Person under section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 with immediate effect.

144. **City Deal – Wave 2 Growth Hub Regional Growth Fund Bid**

Further to 124/13 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Place, which sought approval for the City Council to act as accountable body for Regional Growth Funding that aimed to create almost 200 new jobs and 50 placements and support 160 businesses.

Coventry and Warwickshire had successfully negotiated a City Deal with Central Government that aimed to create 15,000 new jobs by developing the local economy, with a particular focus on the Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering sector. Elected Members endorsed the City Deal proposals at the meeting of the Council held on 14th January 2014 (their minute 127/13 refers).

One of the most important elements of the Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal was the establishment of a “Clearing House”, where key business support activities would be located in one building. This would make it far easier for businesses to access the support that they needed to grow.

The Council had again been successful in bidding for funding on behalf of the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP), and a total of £2.7m of Regional Growth Fund (RGF) money had been secured. This pot of RGF money was managed by Lancaster University, and was intended to fund the first year of City Deal activities, with a particular focus on the activities of the Clearing House.

RESOLVED that the City Council recognise the funding opportunity secured through Wave 2 Business Growth Hubs Funding, and authorise the Council to act as guarantor for the Programme.

145. High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill

Further to Minute 125/13 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Place, which sought approval to formally oppose aspects of the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill.

The City Council passed a resolution in June 2013 (minute 27/13 refers) on the Government’s commitment to proceed with HS2 and sought to secure the best possible outcome for the City.

The Government has since maintained its position and on 25th November 2013 introduced the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill (“the Bill”) in the House of Commons. The Bill would grant the powers necessary to construct and operate Phase 1 of HS2 and further detailed the project, including plans of the route and the anticipated environmental and economic impacts which were set out in the Environmental Statement (ES) and other accompanying documents.

To secure the best possible outcome for Coventry, the City Council would need to formally engage in the Hybrid Bill petitioning process. To do this, the Council was required to pass a resolution to formally oppose the Bill in accordance with the Section 239 of the Local Government Act (LGA) 1972. Depositing a petition against the Bill would allow the Council to make representations and give evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee in order to try to secure the best possible outcome for the City. Unless the Council passed a resolution to technically oppose the Bill, it would not be able to appear

before Select Committee.

Resolving to oppose the Bill would not change the City Council's resolution of June 2013 on HS2, but would allow it to carry out its intention to secure the best possible outcome for the City from HS2.

RESOLVED that, in order to get the best possible outcome from HS2 for the City Bill and in accordance with the Section 239 of the Local Government Act (LGA) 1972, the Council formally opposes aspects of the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill and in order to do this passes the following resolutions:

- (1) That in the judgment of the Coventry City Council it is expedient for the Council to oppose the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill introduced in the Session of Parliament 2013-14.**
- (2) That the Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment), the Executive Director, Place and Assistant Director, Legal & Democratic Services take all necessary steps to carry the foregoing Resolution into effect, that the Common Seal be affixed to any necessary documents and that confirmation be given that Sharpe Pritchard (Parliamentary Agents) be authorised to sign the Petition of the Council against the Bill.**

146. Friargate Bridge – Additional Works

Further to Minute 128/13 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Place on further funding that had been secured from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for additional works at Friargate Bridge.

'Friargate', the proposed commercial development scheme located on approximately 37 acres of land around Coventry Railway Station, would provide a new commercial quarter for the City. With up to 300,000 sqm of new development, of which over 185,000 sqm would comprise high quality office accommodation, it could create up to 13,400 permanent jobs.

The details of the bridge scheme were reported to Cabinet on 18th June 2013 (their minute 13/13 refers). Since then a further £7.2million has been secured from the ERDF. The ERDF would be match funded using previously secured £12.7million Regional Growth Fund (RGF), a further £0.07million contribution from RGF for project management, along with a private contribution from Friargate Coventry LLP. The additional ERDF would bring the total investment in public realm around the station and Friargate to over £20million. By maximising grant funding opportunities the City Council was now able to deliver the following works:

- Creation of a high quality tunnel beneath Warwick Road to provide a second entrance to Coventry station.
- Re-modelling of Station Square to allow the early (2015) completion of the pedestrian boulevard from the front of the station to Greyfriars Green.
- Contribution to the Pedestrian Boulevard and public realm.
- Bus priority measures in and around the station to help maintain reliability during and after the works.

This award was fantastic news for the City and would significantly enhance the Friargate development. The early completion of the Pedestrian Boulevard and enhancement to the quality of the public realm would help to attract business and ensure the development's success. It would also kick-start much needed improvement to the City's Railway Station – the fastest growing outside of London. A master plan for the Station was being developed by the Council working jointly with Centro and the rail industry: the new tunnel under Warwick Road and the works to Station Square would provide the first significant steps to achieving this plan.

It was necessary to incur development costs up to June 2014 when the target price for the additional work was known, without certainty that the project was affordable and that it would therefore proceed. The estimated spend up to this point (principally utilities costs, design fees and project management costs) was £0.744million. If the Council chose not to proceed with the additional works, it would not be able to claim from ERDF or RGF for the costs incurred to this date.

The Bridge Deck target price was to be originally agreed in December 2013 as detailed in the June Cabinet Report, however this had slipped to the end of February 2014 to enable the Contractor, Costain, to have more certainty regarding the design to be priced, which would result in a more accurate target contract price and present less risk to the City Council. As a result of this, it was necessary to award Costain with an early works instruction for site clearance and mobilisation during February 2014, to enable them to still meet the programme of substantial completion in March 2015. Previous Cabinet approval was for a total of £0.7million costs to be spent at risk until the target contract price was agreed. To enable the early works to proceed, an Early Works Agreement up to the value of £0.350million was required, along with approval to spend a further £0.350million project management, design and service costs at risk until target cost was agreed, totalling a further £0.7million. This was additional to the £0.7million previously agreed for project management, design and Early Contractor Involvement costs up to agreement of the target price.

The City Council was required to enter into a grant funding agreement for the ERDF funding with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). In order to meet DCLG's funding programme, the grant funding agreement was required to be completed in January 2014, therefore retrospective approval for delegation of authority is requested for the Executive Director, Place, to enter into the agreement. A contribution of the ERDF would be allocated to Friargate LLP, who would be providing match funding to deliver the pedestrian boulevard. A "back-to-back" Grant Aid Agreement (GAA) was required between the City Council and Friargate Coventry LLP to execute this funding, with the City Council as accountable body. It was standard practice within GAAs to transfer as much risk as possible to the successful applicant and project deliverer.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- (a) Approves the addition of this Scheme to the Council's Capital Programme for 2013/14 onwards for the construction of the additional work up to £7.235million.**
- (b) Approves the delegation of authority to the Executive Director, Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and**

Employment) to award the ECI works contract for the additional works.

- (c) Approves the delegation of authority of the Executive Director, Place, to enter into a Grant Aid Agreement with Friargate Coventry LLP for the delivery of the Pedestrian Boulevard.**
- (d) Retrospectively approves the delegation of authority of the Executive Director, Place, to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement for the European Regional Development Fund funding with the Department for Communities and Local Government.**

147. Statement by the Leader

The Leader, Councillor Mrs Lucas, made a statement on “Regeneration”.

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

Private Business

148. Friargate Bridge – Additional Works

Further to Minute 146 above, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Resources that detailed the confidential financial aspects of the additional works at Friargate Bridge.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- (a) Approve the addition of this Scheme to the Council’s Capital Programme for 2013/14 onwards for the construction of the additional work up to £7.235million.**
- (b) Approve the delegation of authority to the Executive Director, Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise & Employment) to award the ECI works contract for the additional works.**
- (c) Approve the delegation of authority of the Executive Director, Place, to enter into a Grant Aid Agreement with Friargate Coventry LLP for the delivery of the Pedestrian Boulevard.**
- (d) Retrospectively approve the delegation of authority of the Executive Director, Place, to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement for the European Regional Development Fund funding with the Department for Communities and Local Government.**

(Meeting closed at 6.20 pm)