

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

Held on 10th April 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 Mulhall
Councillor Caan	Councillor J. Mutton
Councillor Chater	Councillor Mrs M. Mutton
Councillor Clifford	Councillor Ruane
Councillor Duggins	Councillor Sandy
Councillor Fletcher	Councillor Sawdon
Councillor Galliers	Councillor Sehmi
Councillor Gannon	Councillor Skinner
Councillor Gingell	Councillor Skipper
Councillor Hammon	Councillor Mrs Sweet
Councillor Harvard	Councillor Thay
Councillor Hetheron	Councillor Thomas
Councillor Innes	Councillor Townshend
Councillor Kelly	Councillor Walsh
Councillor Kershaw	Councillor Welsh
Councillor A. Khan	

Honorary Alderman Present: Mr D. Batten
Mr J Gazey

Apologies: Councillors Howells, Miks, O'Boyle, B. Singh, Taylor, Williams and Honorary Alderman Webb

Public Business

161. 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 they contain 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 cases, 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
165	Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) Disposal	3
166	Coventry & Solihull Waste Disposal Company – Board Resolution	3

162. Procedural Matters

It was moved by Councillor Townshend, seconded by Councillor Gannon and agreed that:

- 1) In accordance with paragraph 4.1.35.5 of the Constitution, the two debates relating to the findings of the Ofsted Report into Children's Services as detailed on the Council agenda, one to be moved by Councillor Mrs Lucas and seconded by Councillor Duggins and the other to be moved by Councillor Mrs Lepoidevin and seconded by Councillor Blundell, be combined.
- 2) In accordance with paragraph 4.1.85 of the Constitution, paragraph 4.1.58 be suspended to enable Councillors Mrs Lucas, Duggins, Mrs Lepoidevin and Blundell to speak for an unlimited time, with all other Councillors speaking for a maximum of three minutes each.

163. Debates – The Findings of the Ofsted Report into Children's Services

Further to Minute 162 above, the combined debates relating to the findings of the Ofsted Report into Children's Services were moved by Councillor Mrs Lucas and seconded by Councillor Duggins. A copy of the Ofsted Report was circulated.

In moving the debates, Councillor Mrs Lucas also moved the following Recommendations, which were seconded by Councillor Duggins:-

That the City Council:-

1. Welcomes the setting up of the Improvement Board for Children's Services in Coventry, and wishes to place on record our appreciation to colleagues from other Local Authorities and Agencies who are to contribute to the work of the Improvement Board.
2. Requests the Cabinet Member for Children's Services updates all Council meetings during the municipal year 2014/15 on the progress of the Improvement Board.
3. And that the content of all such updates be shared with the relevant Scrutiny Board.

4. Note The Leader, Deputy Leader the Cabinet Members for Finance and Children and Young People's Services, and the Leader of the Opposition or nominee will meet on a bi-monthly basis to assess the outcomes resulting from the additional £5.6 million for 2014/15 allocated to Children's Services in the February Budget report.
5. Reaffirms the call for a national debate on the full range of issues facing Children's Services

The following amendment to the above Recommendations was moved by Councillor Mrs Lepoidevin, seconded by Councillor Blundell and, in accordance with paragraph 4.1.62 of the Constitution, accepted by Councillor Mrs Lucas and therefore incorporated into the original Recommendations detailed above:-

That Recommendation 5 be amended by the insertion of the following after the words "Children's Services"

"including the setting up of a National Information Database for children at risk requiring all partners to participate fully which will enable local information to be shared in detail"

And the insertion of the following additional Recommendation:-

6. Require the Improvement Board to have clear concise performance measures in place that can monitor the key areas that have been highlighted in the Ofsted report.

The City Council then proceeded to debate this issue in detail.

RESOLVED that the City Council unanimously:

1. **Welcomes the setting up of the Improvement Board for Children's Services in Coventry, and wishes to place on record our appreciation to colleagues from other Local Authorities and Agencies who are to contribute to the work of the Improvement Board.**
2. **Requests the Cabinet Member for Children's Services updates all Council meetings during the Municipal Year 2014/15 on the progress of the Improvement Board.**
3. **And that the content of all such updates be shared with the relevant Scrutiny Board.**
4. **Notes the Leader, Deputy Leader, the Cabinet Members for Finance and Children and Young People's Services and the Leader of the Opposition or nominee will meet on a bi-monthly basis to assess the outcomes resulting from the additional £5.6 million for 2014/15 allocated to Children's Services in the February Budget Report.**

- 5. Reaffirms the call for a national debate on the full range of issues facing Children's Services including the setting up of a National Information Database for children at risk requiring all partners to participate fully which will enable local information to be shared in detail.**
- 6. Require the Improvement Board to have clear concise performance measures in place that can monitor the key areas that have been highlighted in the Ofsted report.**

164. Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) Disposal

Further to Minute 162/14 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Resources on proposals for the disposal of the Metropolitan Area Network (MAN), a City-wide fibre optic cable network. A corresponding private report detailing confidential financial matters was also submitted for consideration (Minute 165 below refers). The network, constructed in 2009, replaced rented leased lines and data circuits to all main Council buildings and local schools and libraries in the wider Coventry area, to provide faster and more resilient internet access. Since its delivery, the City Council had been working to commercialise the MAN with a view to creating regeneration and financial benefits for Coventry.

The City Council had undertaken an open competitive process to invite bids for the MAN asset from the market. CityFibre are the preferred bidder from this process. CityFibre are a company who specialise in building fibre optic infrastructure and are involved in similar schemes in Bournemouth, York and Peterborough.

The deal with CityFibre would enable Coventry to become a 'gigabit' City with superfast broadband speeds attracting inward investment and driving socio-economic benefit and reinforcing the City Council's mantra that Coventry was 'open for business'.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- 1. Authorises the disposal of the Metropolitan Area Network to CityFibre on the terms set out in the Private Report to make Coventry a Gigabit City, leverage investment into the City and generate income for the Council to support existing ABC savings targets.**
- 2. Delegates authority to the Executive Director, Resources and the Council Solicitor, in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Strategic Finance and Resources), to enter into contracts within the financial parameters detailed in the private report.**

Private Business

165. Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) Disposal

Further to Minute 164 above, the City Council considered a report of the Executive Director, Resources that detailed the confidential financial aspects of the Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) Disposal.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- 1. Authorises the disposal of the Metropolitan Area Network to CityFibre on the terms set out in [Section 2] of the report to make Coventry a Gigabit City, leverage investment into the City and generate income for the City Council to support existing ABC savings targets.**
- 2. Delegates authority to Executive Director, Resources and the City Council Solicitor, in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Strategic Finance and Resources), to enter into contracts within the financial parameters detailed in the report.**

166. Coventry & Solihull Waste Disposal Company – Board Resolution

The City Council received a report of the Executive Directors, Place and Resources that notified them of the detailed confidential financial aspects of a Coventry & Solihull Waste Disposal Company (CSWDC) Board Resolution.

Councillor Lancaster provided an oral update on matters relating to this issue at the meeting.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- 1. Notes the decision of the Coventry Solihull & Warwickshire Waste Disposal Company Shareholders Panel to accept / adopt the resolution in the Appendix to the report.**
- 2. Notes that the CSWDC Shareholders Panel will be receiving monthly updates from the Company's Board of Directors.**
- 3. As shareholders, endorses recommendations 1 and 2.**

(Meeting closed at 4.00 pm)

Chair

Date