

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY

24th July 2012

PRESENT

Lord Mayor (Councillor Sawdon)

Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Crookes)

Councillor Mrs Abbott	Councillor Mrs Lepoidevin
Councillor Akhtar	Councillor Mrs Lucas
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 Chater	Councillor Noonan
Councillor Clifford	Councillor O'Boyle
Councillor Duggins	Councillor Ruane
Councillor Mrs Fletcher	Councillor Sandy
Councillor Foster	Councillor Sehmi
Councillor Gannon	Councillor Singh
Councillor Gingell	Councillor Skinner
Councillor Hammon	Councillor Skipper
Councillor Harvard	Councillor Mrs Sweet
Councillor Mrs Hetherton	Councillor Taylor
Councillor Howells	Councillor Thay
Councillor Kelly	Councillor Thomas
Councillor Kershaw	Councillor Townshend
Councillor A. Khan	Councillor Walsh
Councillor Lakha	Councillor Welsh
Councillor Lancaster	

Apologies: Councillor Ali
Councillor Innes
Councillor Williams

Public Business

34. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2012, were signed as a true record.

35. Coventry Good Citizen Award – David Moorcroft

On behalf of the Council, the Lord Mayor and his Honour Judge Griffith-Jones, the Honorary Recorder, presented David Moorcroft with the Coventry Good Citizen Award.

His citation read:

David Robert Moorcroft is globally known for his athletic achievements in the late-1970s and 1980s. Competing in the Commonwealth Games he won gold medals in 1978 over 1500 metres, and in 1982 over 5000 metres. He also finished in medal positions at the European Athletics Championships, and has held records at world, European, and British levels. He still holds the British record for the fastest 3000 metres in a time of 7:32.79.

He served as the Chief Executive of UK athletics from 1997 to 2007, and received an MBE in 1983 and an OBE in 1998 for services to British sport. He developed the Coventry Sports Foundation being the Chief Executive from 1981 to 1995, and remained a Trustee. The Foundation now owned and operated three major sports facilities and numerous related projects serving communities in Coventry. It has attracted over £20 million of capital and £8 million of revenue funding.

However, we are here today to recognise his achievements to get Coventry's name recognised on a worldwide scale. Since 2006 Dave Moorcroft has been working to maximise the opportunities across Coventry and Warwickshire arising from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Covering the areas of sport, business, tourism, culture, education and training camps, Dave was the overall 2012 Ambassador for Coventry and has been instrumental in supporting the city at a local, regional, national and international level.

He has used his considerable talent and influence in making sure Coventry and Warwickshire has achieved the largest engagement in London 2012 compared to any other city outside London.

He is proud to be known as a 'Coventry Kid' and he is happy to share his pride in Coventry with the rest of the world. As a result of his drive and commitment, Dave Moorcroft deserves to be recognised as a Good Citizen of Coventry.

36. Petitions

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

- (a) Request that verges and hard standing be reinstated on Park Avenue – 63 signatures – presented by Councillor Lancaster.**
- (b) Opposing the proposed expansion of Ernesford Grange Primary School – 103 signatures – presented by Councillor Chater.**

37. Declarations of Interest

The following Members declared interests in the matters referred to in the minutes indicated and left the Chamber during their consideration:

- (a) Minute 46 (Consultation on Children's Services as George Eliot Hospital):
The Lord Mayor**

Councillor Chater
Councillor Gingell
Councillor Townshend

- (b) Minute 42 (Warwick District Council New Local Plan – Preferred Options Consultation):
Councillor Noonan

38. **Re-order of the Agenda**

As the Lord Mayor had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to the item entitled “Consultation on Children’s Services at George Eliot Hospital”, it was moved by Councillor Gannon and seconded by Councillor Hetherton that, in accordance with paragraphs 4.1.35.3 of the Constitution, the agenda be re-ordered so that the aforementioned item be taken as the last item of business.

39. **Coventry Local Development Plan: Core Strategy 2011-28 – Submission**

Further to Minute 11/12 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development the purpose of which was:

- To publish the Core Strategy, invite representations from the public and other stakeholders, and formally submit all required documentation to the Secretary of State.
- To formally consider the responses that have been received to the previous consultations around the strategy and distribution of growth (Proposed Core Strategy 2011) and the amount of growth (Options for a new housing target for Coventry 2011-2028)
- To consider the response received to the consultation about the revised Statement of Community Involvement, and to formally adopt the revised Statement of Community Involvement.

The Government had made numerous changes to the planning system since 2010. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012) had replaced the Planning Policy Guidance (PPG’s) and Planning Policy Statements (PPS’s), and the Localism Act 2011 includes provision to formally abolish the Regional (Spatial) Strategy (RSS). Pending the formal abolition of RSS, which required the Government to lay an Order before Parliament, it remained a part of the development plan for Coventry. The various legal challenges to the abolition of RSS have established that it is unlawful for a Council to take the expected abolition of RSS into account in its Core Strategy at this time, but the Localism Act post-dates this case law and provided the power for the Council to use locally-derived evidence to establish its own housing and other targets to supersede the RSS targets.

The previous Core Strategy (2009) was predicated on the RSS Phase II Revision Preferred Option, which required the re-distribution of significant housing from the origin of demand in the southern half of Warwickshire, to Coventry. It was not considered that this was deliverable, so it was appropriate to pursue a strategy that was deliverable.

The Localism Act and NPPF had replaced the formal upper tier of the development plan (RSS) with a “Duty to Co-operate”, but had not set out in detail how that duty was to be discharged. The Council was taking steps to demonstrate compliance with the duty, and Members would be asked to consider a report to formally endorse the arrangements in due course.

The Council had updated its evidence base to provide a robust basis for new housing and employment land targets. This includes an updated Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), and an employment land study.

One of the key tests of “soundness” was the robust assessment of realistic alternative options. Coventry was in a unique position of having seven separate iterations of its Core Strategy, which have been developed over a period of seven years between 2005 and 2012. In addition to this, the recently completed “Options for a new housing target for Coventry 2011 – 2028” consultation asked which of three different housing targets were preferred, as well as giving people the opportunity to put forward further alternatives. The responses were summarised at Appendix 3 of the report.

The two most recent consultations had established broad support for the realistic and deliverable strategy that was set out in the Core Strategy at Appendix 1 of the report. The responses to the “Proposed Core Strategy” consultation of autumn 2011 were summarised at Appendix 2 of the report.

The Statement of Community Involvement set out who and how consultation would take place in respect of planning issues and was reviewed in association with the Planning Advisory Service (PAS). The Council consulted the public and other stakeholders about the revised version of the SCI at the same time as the “Proposed Core Strategy” consultation during the autumn of 2011. This had attracted a single response, which did not raise any fundamental issues to require significant changes to be made to the SCI. It was worthy of note that the revised SCI proposed only factual updates and other minor amendments and it was therefore recommended that the Council formally considered the representation received and adopts the revised Statement of Community Involvement at Appendix 4 of the report.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- (a) Approve publication of the document at Appendix 1 “Coventry Local Development Plan: Core Strategy 2011 – 2028” for representations for a period of six weeks, from Monday 30th July to Monday 10th September 2012**
- (b) Delegate to the Group Manager Planning & Building Control and Cabinet Member (City Development) to make such minor changes to the Core Strategy as may be considered appropriate, and to submit all required documentation to the Secretary of State as soon as practicable following the close of period for representations**
- (c) Note the responses that were received to the “Proposed Core Strategy”, at Appendix 2**

- (d) **Note the responses that were received to the “Options for a new housing target for Coventry 2011 – 2028”, at Appendix 3**
- (e) **Note the response to the draft, and formally adopt the amended Statement of Community Involvement at Appendix 4**
- (f) **Approve expenditure of up to £150,000 to cover the costs of the required independent examination of the Core Strategy as described in section 5.1**

40. Warwick District Council New Local Plan – Preferred Options Consultation

Further to Minute 12/12 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development which set out the City Council’s response to Warwick District Council’s “New Local Plan Preferred Options” consultation. The document set out land that it considered suitable for development, and stated which land was 'preferred' for development. It was considered that, in general terms, the Preferred Options could be supported, but two "potentially suitable" sites to the south of Westwood Heath, and to the east of Finham, should remain as undeveloped Green Belt land.

Warwick District Council’s "Preferred Options" for consultation included proposed site allocations to deliver growth, and some of these sites were currently undeveloped Green Belt land. It was considered that this was a matter for Warwick District Council as planning authority, and therefore no objection in principle to this was recommended.

The draft site allocations were shown on Map 3, Appendix 3 of the report. It was not recommended that any comments be made with respect to this.

A map of "potentially suitable" sites included some undeveloped Green Belt land immediately to the south of Westwood Heath, and east of Finham. Map 2 at Appendix 2 of the report referred. It was recommended that the Council objected in principle to the possibility of development of these sites, because it was likely that the burden of servicing the infrastructure requirements of those developments would fall on the City Council in the medium term, but that the corresponding Council Tax revenues would be received by Warwick District Council.

There were two realistic options available. The first was to remain silent, this was rejected because it was in the Council's interests to formally express its wish for the land south of Westwood Heath, and land to the east of Finham, that was identified as a "potentially suitable" site to remain as undeveloped land within the Green Belt.

The second option, which was recommended, was to formally respond in support of the Preferred Option, subject to the identified "potentially suitable" sites south of Westwood Heath and east of Finham remaining as undeveloped land in the Green Belt.

RESOLVED that the City Council approve the response to Warwick District Council New Local Plan Preferred Options consultation, at Appendix 1 of the report.

41. Review of Members' Allowance Scheme

Further to Minute 20/12 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Director of the Director of Customer and Workforce Services which set out recommendations by the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) on the Review of the Members' Allowance Scheme at Appendix A of the report. A supplementary report had been submitted in June 2012 and this was also appended to the report at Appendix B of the report.

All local authorities were required to have a Member Allowances and Expenses scheme which makes provision for a range of allowances and expenses available to some or all elected Members. This must be agreed locally, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) Regulations 2003 (as amended).

A local authority must review its allowance provisions at least once every four years if it had agreed to index-link its scheme of allowances. Coventry had index-linking arrangements for Member allowances; they were increased in line with the nationally-agreed annual pay award for local government employees, at spinal point 49 of the National Joint Council (NJC) Scheme, in April each year. Pay increases were last awarded in 2009. The last review was in 2007/08, reporting to Cabinet and Council in December 2007.

Whilst each authority approved its own scheme, it was legally required to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to make recommendations on allowances and expenses. The Council must have regard to its recommendations. An IRP was appointed in October 2011 to undertake a review of the City Council's Members' Allowances Scheme. The scope and terms of reference of the IRP were detailed in the report.

The Panel had made 23 recommendations, with a detailed account supporting each recommendation. These were set out in pages 1-3 of this report, and in full detail in the Panel's report in Appendix A (note: Recommendation 6 had subsequently been deleted from the original 24, as explained in Appendix B). The recommendations all related to the scope of the IRP as follows:

- Annual adjustment (index-linking) of allowances
- Basic and special responsibility allowances paid to elected Members
- Co-optees allowances paid to Co-opted Members
- Consideration of allowances to be paid to Members sitting on both the Fostering and Adoption Panels
- Member expense arrangements including travel and subsistence
- Remuneration levels for the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor positions.

The decision to approve these recommendations was the City Council's. The Council must have regard to the recommendations made by the IRP before it amended any part of the current Member Allowances scheme. The City Council was requested to consider these recommendations individually and state whether each recommendation was approved or rejected. The Council was not bound by the recommendations of the Panel and may reject any of the proposals made, but the City Council must have regard

to the implications of such decisions; the report indicated that if some of the recommendations were not accepted then alternative provisions should be considered and these could be put forward and agreed.

The recommendations were being proposed separately rather than as a whole set, this meant that the City Council could accept, amend or reject individual recommendations. If some recommendations were rejected, then the remainder could be implemented.

There was a requirement for both the IRP recommendations and the authority's response to be widely publicised. Recommendations that were approved would need to be incorporated in a revised scheme of allowances and expenses to be published within the Council's constitution.

It was proposed that the timescales for the next IRP be agreed in advance to aid planning. The next Panel needed to report by March 2016 at the latest. Cabinet had approved the timetable as follows:

- establish Panel Membership January 2015
- Panel meetings held March 2015 – Sept 2015
- draft report produced – Oct 2015
- report considered by Cabinet and Council – by January 2016.

Cabinet had considered each of the proposed IRP recommendations and whilst accepting most the recommendations made, agreed that there were a number of recommendations that should be rejected. Where alternative proposals were made for rejected recommendations, these are set out in the resolution below.

At the meeting of Cabinet, it was agreed that members receive a document which showed the revised financial impact of the changes to allowances based on the Cabinet's recommendations and this had been circulated to members and tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the following IRP recommendations be approved:

- R1 Basic Allowance remains at the existing level of remuneration, currently £12,872 pa.**
- R2 Basic Allowance is paid to every elected Member i.e. including the Member elected as Lord Mayor.**
- R3 Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) for Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members, Leader of the Principal Opposition Group, Chairs of Scrutiny Boards and Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the Scrutiny Co-ordination, Planning, Licensing and Audit Committees remain at the existing levels of remuneration.**
- R4 Current SRA for the Lead Member for Standards be discontinued.**

- R5** Responsibility allowance of £1,000 is paid to the Chair of the Ethics Committee.
- R8** Additional SRAs be approved for elected Members appointed to the authority's Fostering Panel and Adoption Panel, these SRAs to be set at £2,578.
- R11** Allowances paid to each co-opted Member appointed by the City Council remain at the existing level, currently £466 pa.
- R12** The Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor allowances be set at gross rate (before tax and National Insurance), in line with how basic allowances and other SRAs are treated.
- R15** The City Council undertakes greater promotion of the Dependent Carers' Allowance Scheme, particularly in relation to the objective of encouraging the broadest representation of society on the Council.
- R16** Notwithstanding the recent low level of claims for carers' allowances, specific budget provision, proposed at £2,000 pa, be made to underpin the Council's commitment to this scheme.
- R17** Basic, Special Responsibility, Co-optees, Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor allowances be increased each year by the percentage increase in pay agreed for local government employees (pegged to spinal column point 49 of the NJC Scheme); this indexing to be effective from 1 April 2012 and expire on 31 March 2016.
- R24** Following the determination of the issue of whether or not Coventry has an elected mayor, a full, in depth review of the Coventry City *[Council]* SRA structure and allowance levels be undertaken by a future IRP.
- (b)** That the following recommendations be rejected with no alternatives:
- R7** SRAs for Deputy Chairs of Scrutiny Boards be reduced from £2,578 to £1,000. *[This excludes Deputy Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee as per R3].*
- R10** The City Council undertakes to produce formal job descriptions/person specifications of the roles and responsibilities of elected Members, particularly for positions which attract Special Responsibility Allowances.
- R18** The 'Pick and Mix' allowance of £150 for each elected Member for stationery, equipment etc be abolished.
- R19** In the event of the City Council deciding to continue this *[Pick and Mix]* scheme the 'custom and practice', but currently

unauthorised, additional allowances for Group Officers and the Leader be discontinued.

R20 The Council introduces a single mode of provision of 'smart' phones for all Members, under authority-negotiated and financed contracts.

R21 All other modes of telephone provision and associated allowances paid to Members be discontinued at the earliest opportunity.

(c) That, in respect of the following rejected IRP recommendations, the following alternatives be approved:

R9 Scrutiny Board Deputy Chair SRA remains at current level of £2,578

R13 Freeze Lord Mayor's Gross allowance at 2012/13 level of £42,696, made up of £12,578 basic allowance plus Mayoral allowance of £30,118.

R14 Freeze Deputy Lord Mayor gross allowance at 2012/13 of £13,156.

R22 The rates of travel and subsistence allowances paid to elected members be as set out in the Travel and Subsistence Scheme (contained within Appendix C) and attached to these minutes

R23 That the Travel and Subsistence Scheme (contained within Appendix C) be adopted

Note: R6 was deleted

(d) That the Members Allowance Scheme (Appendix C) be adopted.

42. Amendment to Outside Body Appointment

The Council considered a report of the Director of Customer and Workforce Services which sought approval to amend the City Council's Prime Voting representative on the West Midlands Joint Committees - Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee.

Councillor McNicholas and Councillor Mrs Bigham had been appointed to the West Midlands Joint Committee - Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee with Councillor McNicholas being appointed as the Prime Voting representative on behalf of the City Council. However, Councillor McNicholas had recently been elected as Chair of the Integrated Transport Authority and had been nominated by that Authority as its Voting Member on the same Committee. As Councillor McNicholas could not have two votes at meetings of the Sub-Committee, it was proposed to transfer the Prime Voting rights to the City Council's other appointed Member, Councillor Mrs Bigham.

RESOLVED that the City Council appoints Councillor Mrs Bigham as the City Council's Prime Voting representative on the West Midlands Joint Committees - Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee.

43. 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:

No	Question Asked By	Question Put To	Subject Matter
1	Councillor Sweet	Councillor M. Mutton	Congratulations to organisers of Faith Gathering event on Sunday 22 nd July
2	Councillor Hammon	Councillor Harvard	Grass cutting outside Council House

44. Statement by the Leader of the Council – Security at the Olympics

The Leader, Councillor John Mutton, made a statement in respect of the recent news that G4S would fall short on the number of security guards provided for the Olympics and the subsequent deployment of military and police officers for security duties. Councillor Mutton stated he believed that the Olympics would be a success and a wonderful experience for all, but condemned the Government and G4S for potentially ruining the Games.

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

45. Debate – Governing Bodies

Councillor Kershaw moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Bigham:

“Coventry City Council wish to recognise the important role that Governing Bodies play in raising achievement in schools”

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

46. Consultation on Children’s Services as George Eliot Hospital

The Council considered a report of the Director of Community Services which sought approval to submit a response to the consultation on the future of paediatric and maternity services in North Warwickshire.

There has been considerable speculation over the past two years regarding the future of paediatric and maternity services at George Eliot Hospital. Local NHS commissioners had conducted a review of these services and had now arrived at a single proposal for modest changes to current services, with small additional patient flows being directed to University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire.

The Health, Social Care and Welfare Reform Scrutiny Board had been invited to submit a formal response to the final proposal and on the request of its Chair, the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board had also considered the proposal contained in the consultation document.

The report sought approval to submit the response contained in the report which had been recommended by the Scrutiny Board and Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board, to the Arden PCT Cluster as a Coventry City Council corporate response:

That the City Council noted the proposed option for a network operation of Paediatric and Maternity Services at George Eliot Hospital and made the following comments:

- (a) That the proposed solution, whilst innovative was also nationally untested and highly complex.*
- (b) That there were concerns about the ability of the local health economy to recruit to the additional post identified given the complexity of working arrangements and the unusual nature of the proposal.*
- (c) That the Council request the Arden PCT Cluster to provide firm re-assurances concerning any potential knock on effects of the additional patient flows from North Warwickshire on bed availability at university Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire.*
- (d) That, in the light of the above concerns, the commissioners of children's services (who by this time will be the local Coventry and Warwickshire clinical Commissioning Groups) submit an update report on the progress of the introduction of this model approximately six months after its commencement, including analysis of the issues raised in (c) above (provisionally in November 2013).*
- (e) That this response incorporates the view of the statutory Coventry Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.*

RESOLVED that the City Council:

- (i) Note and support the response of the Health, Social Care and Welfare Reform Scrutiny Board (5)**
- (ii) Note the comments of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board**
- (iii) Agree that the draft response be submitted on behalf of the City Council.**

Note: As the Lord Mayor, Councillor Sawdon, had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Minute 46 above, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Crookes took the chair for this item.

Meeting closed at 4.40 pm