

Time began	6.00pm
Time ended	6.50pm

COUNCIL CABINET

8 NOVEMBER 2005

Present Councillor Williamson - Chair
 Councillors Bayliss, Bolton, Dhindsa, Hussain, Repton,
 Roberts and Wynn

Also Present: Councillors Jones and Hickson

This record of decisions was published on 11 November 2005. The decisions set out in this record will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of five clear days unless a decision is called in.

157/05 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Nath.

158/05 Late Items introduced by the Chair

In accordance with Section 100(B) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit the following late items on the grounds that both items could not wait until the next meeting.

- report on the Call-in of the Council Cabinet Key Decisions – Prioritisation of Heritage Lottery Projects in Derby, and St Helens House – Council Cabinet 18 October 2005
- an addendum to the Contract and Financial Procedure Matters report to approve a new capital scheme and waive contract procedure rules to provide festive lights in Peartree Road and Normanton Road.

159/05 Identification of Urgent Items to which Call-In will not apply

There were none

160/05 Declarations of interest

Councillor Bayliss declared a personal interest in item 11- 'Supported Accommodation Strategy for Older People' - and item 15 – 'Shelton Lock Mobile Home Park Rents and Management Service Charge', as he was a member of the Derby Homes Board.

Councillor Williamson declared a personal interest in item 11 - - 'Supported Accommodation Strategy for Older People', as he was a member of the Derby PCT Board.

Matters referred to Council Cabinet

161/05 Report of Call-In

The Council Cabinet considered a joint report of the Scrutiny Management and Culture and Prosperity Commissions on the Call-In of Council Cabinet Decisions on the prioritisation of Heritage Lottery Projects in Derby, and St Helens House. The Commission had asked that both decisions made at the meeting of Council Cabinet held on 18 October 2005 be reconsidered.

Councillor Roberts reported that following the Call-In, he had met with representatives of the St Helens House Trust to agree an acceptable way forward. He asked the Council Cabinet to support his recommendation to underwrite any costs incurred by the Trust should St Helen's House be sold to another developer.

Decision

1. To confirm the decisions of the Council Cabinet made on 18 October 2005
2. To ask the Director of Corporate Services to prepare documentation confirming that, in the event of St Helens House being sold, the Council would underwrite costs incurred on the feasibility study carried out by the Trust up to a maximum of £50,000.

162/05 Private Sector Housing Renewal

The Council Cabinet received a report from the Community Regeneration Commission on Private Sector Housing Renewal. The Commission had considered the matter and in light of the evidence had supported the decision of the Council Cabinet.

Decision

To note the report

163/05 Best Value Review of Markets Update

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Culture and Prosperity Commission setting out recommendations arising from consideration of an update report on progress made against the recommendations in the 2001 Best Value Review of Markets. The Commission made the following recommendations:

- that ways be found to either reduce or recycle other waste materials produced by the markets, including plastics, glass and polystyrene
- that all year round provision is made to collect compostable waste which would allow the markets to compost all its vegetable, flower and straw waste
- that external signage to Derby's markets is improved and that this is included in the city centre signage strategy
- that stall holders are discouraged from allowing goods to encroach into the aisles as this has a detrimental effect on the access to the market by disabled users
- that a rolling programme is developed to ensure minor maintenance to Markets buildings is carried out more frequently. In the longer term it is recommended that consideration should be given to resurfacing work at the Cattle Market and the Wholesale Market and to re-wiring the Wholesale Market

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services responding to the issues raised by the Commission.

Decision

1. To note the report.
2. To ask the Commission to consider if it would wish to carry out a review on a specific aspect of Derby's Markets as part of its 2005/06 work plan, such as ways of encouraging younger people to use the markets.

Key Decisions

164/05 Renaissance East Midlands Business Plan

The Council Cabinet considered a report on the Renaissance East Midlands Business Plan. Renaissance East Midlands was part of the government programme to improve and develop museums in the east Midlands. Derby Museums and art Gallery was a partner in the regional Board.

Options Considered

The Council could not sign up to the business plan. This would lead to its withdrawal from the East Midlands hub. This option was rejected as the Business Plan reinforces the Councils own objectives and priorities for the museums service and offers support in the quest for improved quality and performance.

Decision

1. To approve the draft Renaissance East Midlands Business Plan 2006-08.
2. To authorise the Director of Development and Cultural Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture to make any final amendments up to the deadline of submission at the end of November 2005.

Reasons

- 1 Membership of the hub has already yielded significant developments in terms of visitor numbers, outreach and collections management.
- 2 The proposals and funding packages in the Renaissance East Midlands Business Plan represent a vital growth and improvement strategy for museums in the region but especially for Derby's museums.

165/05 Disposal of Land at Greenwood Avenue, Chaddesden

The Council Cabinet considered a report setting out proposals to sell land at Greenwood Avenue, Chaddesden. The terms had previously agreed by the Council Cabinet based on nine flats being constructed on the site. Subsequently planning permission for the flats had been refused and a new application for six units submitted. The value of the land had been reassessed based on the lower density development.

Options Considered

The option of remarketing the site had been considered but rejected for the following reasons:

- only four offers were received previously, three of which were lower than the revised offer
- Home Housing are in a position to complete the sale quickly and commence development on the site early in 2006
- this proposal has Housing Corporation support and will provide additional affordable housing in the city.

Decision

To approve the sale of the land at Greenwood Avenue, Chaddesden to Home Housing Group Limited for the sum of £106,000.

Reasons

To conclude the sale at a revised market valuation.

166/05 A Vision for Ageing in Derby

The Council Cabinet considered a report setting out a partnership strategy for older people in Derby. The report set out the next steps in developing a vision in the context of establishing an older peoples Strategic Planning Partnership for Derby within Derby City Partnership's City of Opportunity.

Options Considered

No alternative options were considered.

Decision

1. To endorse the purpose role and suggested first objectives of the Vision for Aging Co-ordination Group set out in appendix 2 to the report.
2. To refer the report to the Scrutiny Management Commission.

Reasons

To confirm our commitment to supporting the development of future work of the Vision for Aging Co-ordination Group within the proposed Older People's Strategic Planning Partnership Framework

167/05 Supported Accommodation Strategy for Older People in Derby

The Council Cabinet considered a report on the Development of a Supported Accommodation Strategy for Derby

Options considered

No alternative options were considered

Decision

- 1 To approve the Supported Accommodation Strategy and the overall direction for service improvement that is proposed.
- 2 To approve the setting up of a workshop involving all partners to agree how the strategy is taken forward.
- 3 To discuss the recommendations and proposed implementation of the report with NHS partners at the next meeting between the Council and the NHS Partnership Board

- 4 Subject to the agreement of all partners to receive an implementation plan and further detailed reports as the programme moves forward.

Reasons

1. The Council and its partners need to take a strategy approach to service change across the whole system if the needs of Derby's Older People are to be met in the future , in a way that offers older people outcomes they expect while also delivering best value from the resources available.
2. The supported accommodation strategy fills and acknowledged gap and will provide a firm foundation on which to base our joint commissioning and implementation plans.

168/05 Library Management System Renewal

The Council Cabinet considered proposals to investigate, in partnership with Derbyshire County Council, the Library System Management System market, to see whether better and cheaper alternatives were available.

Options Considered

As set out in the report.

Decision

- 1 To initiate procurement on a European level of a new computerised Library Management System – LMS.
- 2 Subject to suitable working arrangements being agreed between the two authorities, to procure a new LMS be procured jointly and shared with Derbyshire County Council. The County Council would act as the lead authority, and the project would be managed by a board comprising officers of both authorities.
- 3 To agree to receive a further report after the evaluation of tenders that will recommend a preferred supplier, and provide details of project costs and funding proposals.

Reasons

Derby's libraries need to use the best available tools to allow for an expanding and changing role. Market testing over the next year could yield improvements in service and savings.

169/05 The Soldier's Story – Proposed bid to Heritage Lottery Fund

The Council Cabinet considered a report on proposals to submit a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to provide for the refurbishment of the military gallery to be called the Soldier's Story.

Options considered

The current Military Gallery could be left as it is but this would mean that an important aspect of the history of Derby's people is not being represented in a modern and comprehensive fashion.

Decision

- 1 To approve a contribution of £33,526 to the soldiers story project.
- 2 To authorise the keeper of Military and Social History to submit the bid for the Soldier's Story to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Reasons

- 1 The Soldier's Story will provide integrated public access to the history of three regiments that recruit or have recruited from Derby and its catchment. Many local people have family connections to these regiments.
- 2 The Soldier's Story will be much more than a display of military memorabilia. It will use objects to explain and explore the experiences of local people serving in far-flung corners of the globe as well as the stories of their families left at home
- 3 The refurbishment will encourage more people to visit the gallery, improve security and environmental conditions of items on display, and offer high standard curriculum linked facilities for school groups to use.

Contract and Financial Procedure Matters

170/05 Contract and Finance Procedures Matters Report

The Council Cabinet considered a report setting out a number of Contract and Finance procedure matters.

An addendum report had been circulated as a late item.

Decision

- 1 To approve the submission of an application to DEFRA for an increase in funding of £931,000 to £2.106 million of funding for funding the Markeaton Catchment Action Management Plan – Phase 1.

- 2 To note the change to the capital programme to take account of the revised costs and funding, subject to DEFRA approval and approve scheme commencement for the flood defence scheme.
- 3 To delegate authority to the Director of Development and Cultural Services to award a tender for the works, subject to formal approval from DEFRA and the tender cost being within approved capital budget limits.
- 4 To approve the appointment of Commensura to manage the contract for the supply of temporary staff to the Council to start in November 2005 for a three-year period with an option to extend to five years.
- 5 To agree that departmental budget proposals for 2006/07 onwards should in principle incorporate estimated net savings arising from these proposals, likely to be in the range of £25,000 to £50,000 overall, rising to £100,000 in 2007/08, as a contribution towards departmental savings targets, subject to savings being confirmed in the corporate budget process.
- 6 To approve the report in respect of Treasury Management activity and performance for 2005/06 to date as outlined in appendix 2.
- 7 To extend the treasury management strategy for 2005/06 to authorise the Director of Finance to undertake during 2005/06, the forward borrowing of external funds from the money market at favourable interest rates to take effect from April 2006, on the condition that the capital financing requirement for 2006/07 is not exceeded and that the Director of Finance considers market conditions to be beneficial.
- 8 To amend the scheme on the 2005/06 Capital Programme relating to building works at Normanton Park Pavilion and Normanton Activity Centre to £480,000 and increase external funding to £450,000.
- 9 To approve a transfer of £167,000 from the Market Hall roof repairs corporate capita scheme 2005/06 to a new scheme to replace boilers and control equipment, together with capital scheme commencement.
- 10 To add a new scheme to the 2005/06 Capital Programme and schedule commencement for works subject to approval of the external funding for festive lighting in the Normanton and Peartree Areas.
- 11 To waive contract procedure rule CP15 and not seek competitive tenders for the work.

180/05 Shelton Lock Mobile Home Park Rents and Management Service Charge

The Council Cabinet considered a report setting out proposals to change the rents, rent policy and the management service charges at Shelton Lock Mobile Homes Park managed by Derby Homes.

Decision

- 1 To approve the proposed increase in ground rents at Shelton Lock Mobile Homes Park and agree the policy for future increases set out in paragraph 3.4 of the joint report of the Directors of Finance and Policy. For 2005/06 the proposed weekly ground rents from January 2006 would be:
 - small plot £10.80 – increase of £0.70 a week for 9 plots
 - medium plot £13.50 – increase of £0.90 a week for 24 plots
 - large plot £15.60 – increase of £1.00 a week for 5 plots.

These increases were much lower than inflation since 1994. Even by the end of 2011/12, projected rent levels are expected to remain below the 1994 level in real terms. In other words, had rents been increased in line with inflation since 1994 rents would be around 37% higher than the level agreed. Council tenants have experienced even greater increases than this over the same period.
- 2 To approve the phased introduction of capital financing charges in the trading account.
- 3 To approve the draft service level agreement for the Park Homes Site as set out in appendix 2 and agree a management fee of £12,226 for 2005/06.
- 4 To approve an annual review of the Service Level Agreement.
- 5 To delegate the negotiation of a management fee for the provision of services outlined in the Service Level Agreement to the Director of Finance, or his representative, in consultation with the Chief Executive or other nominated Derby Homes Officers.
- 6 To approve ending the current service charge of £0.30 a week for the communal aerial facility.

190/05 Exclusion of Press and Public

Decision

To exclude the press and public from the meeting during discussion of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of part 1 of schedule 12a of section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Key Decision

191/05 Housing PFI

The Council Cabinet considered a report setting out proposals to clarify the level of the Council's financial contribution to the project

Options Considered

Other options were to attempt to submit the outline business case without this financial clarification. This may result in a lack of approval by the Project Review Group. It is believed that the £1.8 million contribution should be adequate for the scheme at this stage. The strategy of reconsidering funding if needed will still apply should an increase arise in the future.

Decision

- 1 To approve an increase in the Council contribution to the project as set out in the report
- 2 To approve, should the need arise, a further increase in funding for the project, from its facilitation fund within the housing capital programme, subject to the project remaining value for money for the Council.
- 3 To note that there was cross-party support for progressing this project.

Reason

The earlier report to the Council Cabinet in October lacked any firm figures, as it was a public report and it was not thought to be crucial to specify a particular figure but rather our willingness to cover any reasonable cost increases within the project.

MINUTES END