

Time commenced - 6.00 pm
Time adjourned - 10.12 pm

COUNCIL MEETING 25 JANUARY 2006

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Webb)
Councillors Ahern, Afzal, Allen, Baxter, Bayliss, E Berry,
P S Berry, Blanksby, Bolton, Brown, Burgess, Care, Carr, Chera,
Dhamrait, Dhindsa, Gerrard, Graves, Higginbottom, Hird, Hussain,
Jackson, Jones, Khan, Latham, Leeming, Liversedge, Lowe,
MacDonald, Marshall, Nath, Rawson, Redfern, Rehman, Repton,
Richards, Roberts, Samra, Skelton, Smalley, Tittley, Travis, Troup,
Turner, West, Williamson, Willitts, Wynn

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hickson and Winter.

Declarations of Interest

All members of the General Licensing Committee declared personal interests in the matters referred to in Minute No. 80/05 – Members' Allowances: Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel. Councillor Richards declared a personal interest in Minute No. 79/05 in relation to the appointment of an independent member to the Board of Derby Homes Ltd, as he was a tenant of Derby Homes Ltd.

Announcements from the Mayor

The Council stood in silence as a tribute to the memory of:

- Phillip Whitehead, former MP for Derby North and a sitting MEP for the East Midlands. Tributes were paid to Phillip Whitehead by the Mayor and Councillors Care, Latham and Williamson.
- Colin Munton, former Director of Planning and Technical Services. A tribute to Colin Munton was paid by Councillor Baxter.
- Former County Councillor A E (Mick) Smith. A tribute to Councillor Smith was paid by Councillor Burgess.

The Mayor advised Council that the following month marked the 30th anniversary of the city's twinning link with Osnabrück in Germany. The Oberbürgermeister of Osnabrück was due to visit the City and a reunion of Derby Envoys to Osnabrück was being organised.

The Mayor referred to the fact that this was the last Council meeting before Margaret McGlade, Director of Social Services, retired from the Council's service. Tributes to Margaret McGlade were paid by the Mayor and Councillors E Berry, Dhindsa, Hussain and Jones.

72/05 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 23 November 2005 be approved as a correct record, confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

73/05 Statements by Members of the Council Cabinet

There were no statements by members of the Council Cabinet.

74/05 Public Questions

Questions from members of the public were asked as follows:

1. By Mr T Dunn, concerning the concept and design for the Riverlights project, answered by Councillor Williamson, Leader of the Council and Council Cabinet Member for Corporate Policy.
2. By Mr T Dunn, concerning the payment of a sum of £2,000,000 to the Riverlights developer, answered by Councillor Williamson, Leader of the Council and Council Cabinet Member for Corporate Policy.
3. By Mr Chris Thornewill, concerning the lack of provision of closed circuit television coverage in Curzon Street, answered by Councillor Bayliss, Council Cabinet Member for Community Services, Regeneration and e-Government.
4. By Pat Woolley, asking why money could not be made available to refurbish the current bus station, answered by Councillor Williamson, Leader of the Council and Council Cabinet Member for Corporate Policy.
5. By Pat Woolley, in relation to the provision of a bond by developers Metro Holst in connection with the redevelopment of the bus station, answered by Councillor Williamson, Leader of the Council and Council Cabinet Member for Corporate Policy.
6. By Mrs Helen Durose, asking for information about wooden parquet flooring from the bus station café, answered by Councillor Williamson, Leader of the Council and Council Cabinet Member for Corporate Policy. In the absence

of Mrs Durose, the question was asked by the Corporate Director, Corporate and Adult Social Services.

7. By Chris Poulter, concerning the repair of the roof of Spondon Village Hall, answered by Councillor Hussain, Council Cabinet Member for Adult Services.
8. By Derek Limer, concerning the proposed closure of Pickford's House Museum, answered by Councillor Dhindsa, Council Cabinet Member for Leisure and Cultural Services.
9. By Penny Abreu, concerning an injunction obtained in respect of a planning application due to be considered by the Planning Control Committee on 22 December 2005, answered by Councillor Repton, Council Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation.
10. By Penny Abreu, concerning the service provider for the proposed Green Lane Homeless Accommodation and Assessment Unit, answered by Councillor Nath, Council Cabinet Member for Housing and Social Inclusion.
11. By Matthew Holmes, concerning highway improvements in Mickleover, answered by Councillor Repton, Council Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation.

75/05 Written Questions about the Business or Functions of the Derbyshire Police Authority or Derbyshire Fire Authority

There were no written questions about the business or functions of the Derbyshire Police Authority or Derbyshire Fire Authority.

76/05 Written Questions from Non-Council Cabinet Members to Members of the Council Cabinet

Written questions from Non-Council Cabinet Members to Members of the Council Cabinet were asked as follows:

1. By Councillor West, concerning budget proposals to close grass tennis courts, answered by Councillor Dhindsa, Council Cabinet Member for Leisure and Cultural Services.
2. By Councillor Latham, concerning Adult Education provision at the Rycote Centre, answered by Councillor Wynn, Council Cabinet Member for Children's and Education Services.

3. By Councillor Smalley, concerning the selection of Metro Holst as the developer for the Riverlights scheme, answered by Councillor Williamson, Leader of the Council and Council Cabinet Member for Corporate Policy.
4. By Councillor E Berry, concerning proposed budget cuts at Pickford's House Museum, answered by Councillor Dhindsa, Council Cabinet Member for Leisure and Cultural Services.
5. By Councillor Samra, concerning housing waiting lists, answered by Councillor Nath, Council Cabinet Member for Housing and Social Inclusion.
6. By Councillor Care, concerning the outcome of Councillor Bolton's visit to Nottingham, in particular in regard to reducing fly posting, answered by Councillor Bolton, Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Direct Services.

77/05 Minutes and Recommendations of the Council Cabinet

The Council considered the minutes and recommendations of the Council Cabinet, requiring the approval of the Council, set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

Resolved, on the motion of Councillor Williamson, to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Council Cabinet dated 29 November 2005, 20 December 2005 and 17 January 2006.

78/05 Notices of Motion

1. *Museum Opening Times*

It was moved by Councillor Skelton, and seconded, that Council condemns the Labour Group's plans to close Pickford's House to general opening and restrict Sunday and Bank Holiday opening of other museums. This flies in the face of other aims to market Derby in and outside of the city. Council calls on Cabinet to review these proposals.

It was moved by Councillor Dhindsa, and seconded, that the motion be amended by the deletion of the words "condemns", "The Labour Group's plans", "close", "this flies in the face of other", and "Council calls on Cabinet to" and the insertion of the words "notes the proposed budget options", "restrict", "public", "that are part of the budget consultation process", "Council requires the Council Cabinet to also consider the", and "when they".

(The effect of the amendment, if approved, was that the motion would read as follows:

“Council notes the proposed budget options to restrict Pickford’s House opening to general public and restrict Sunday and Bank Holiday opening of other museums that are part of the budget consultation process. Council requires the Council Cabinet to also consider the aims to market Derby in and outside of the city when they review these proposals.”)

The amendment was put to the meeting and carried.

Resolved that Council notes the proposed budget options to restrict Pickford’s House opening to general public and restrict Sunday and Bank Holiday opening of other museums that are part of the budget consultation process. Council requires the Council Cabinet to also consider the aims to market Derby in and outside of the city when they review these proposals.

2. Pickford’s House Museum

In the absence of Councillor Hickson, it was moved by Councillor West, and seconded, that Council acknowledges Pickford’s House as one of the most valuable assets in the City and is concerned about plans to restrict access to this museum by limiting its availability to organised tours only which will both severely curtail attendances by the general public and families and seriously reduce the tourist offer in the City.

Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to:

1. Abandon any plans to restrict public access to Pickford’s House from what it is now.
2. Give a clear undertaking that Pickford’s House will not be closed and sold off to meet budget shortfalls either in this year or in any future years.

It was moved by Councillor Dhindsa, and seconded, that the motion be amended by the deletion of the words “as one of the most”, “about plans to restrict access to this museum by limiting its availability to organised tours only which will both severely curtail”, “seriously”, “abandon any plans to restrict public access to Pickford’s House from what it is now”, and “either in this year or in any future years” and the insertion of the words “is a”, “that the proposals contained in the budget may significantly reduce”, “thus”, and “fully consider the views taken in the consultative process and take appropriate action”.

(The effect of the amendment, if approved, was that the motion would read as follows:

“Council acknowledges Pickford’s House is a valuable asset in the city and is concerned that the proposals contained in the budget may significantly reduce attendances by the general public and families and thus reduce the tourist offer in the city.

Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to:

1. Fully consider the views taken in the consultative process and take appropriate action.
2. Give a clear undertaking that Pickford's House will not be closed and sold off to meet budget shortfalls.")

In accordance with Rule CP68, it was demanded by at least 10 members that a recorded vote be taken on the amendment.

The following members voted for the amendment:

Councillors Ahern, Afzal, Baxter, Bayliss, Blanksby, Bolton, Chera, Dhamrait, Dhindsa, Gerrard, Graves, Higginbottom, Hussain, Jackson, Khan, MacDonald, Nath, Rawson, Redfern, Rehman, Repton, Roberts, Tittley, Turner, Williamson, Wynn (26).

The following members voted against the amendment:

The Mayor (Councillor Webb), Councillors Allen, E Berry, P S Berry, Burgess, Care, Carr, Hird, Jones, Latham, Leeming, Liversage, Lowe, Marshall, Richards, Samra, Skelton, Smalley, Travis, Troup, West, Willitts (22).

Councillor Brown had left the meeting before the recorded vote was taken.

The amendment was declared carried.

In accordance with Rule CP68, it was demanded by at least ten members that a recorded vote be taken on the substantive motion.

The following members voted for the motion:

Councillors Ahern, Afzal, Baxter, Bayliss, Blanksby, Bolton, Chera, Dhamrait, Dhindsa, Gerrard, Graves, Higginbottom, Hussain, Jackson, Khan, MacDonald, Nath, Rawson, Redfern, Rehman, Repton, Roberts, Tittley, Turner, Williamson, Wynn (26).

The following members voted against the motion:

The Mayor (Councillor Webb), Councillors Allen, E Berry, P S Berry, Burgess, Care, Carr, Hird, Jones, Latham, Leeming, Liversage, Lowe, Marshall, Richards, Samra, Skelton, Smalley, Travis, Troup, West, Willitts (22).

Councillor Brown had left the meeting before the recorded vote was taken.

The substantive motion was declared carried.

Resolved that Council acknowledges Pickford's House is a valuable asset in the city and is concerned that the proposals contained in the budget

may significantly reduce attendance by the general public and families and plus reduce the tourist offer in the city.

Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to:

- 1. Fully consider the views taken in the consultative process and take appropriate action.**
- 2. Give a clear undertaking that Pickford's House will not be closed and sold off to meet budget shortfalls**
3. *Bus Station Re-opening*

It was moved by Councillor Smalley, and seconded, that the current difficulties with Metro Holst have left the City without a bus station and with the City Centre in chaos due to the temporary location of buses around the City Centre. Whilst acknowledging that the City needs a new bus station it is clearly absurd to leave the current traffic chaos as it is if there is to be a further period of delay and uncertainty whilst the Riverlights scheme is re-evaluated.

Council therefore calls on Cabinet to re-open the bus station immediately until the delays and uncertainties around Riverlights scheme are fully resolved and the entire scheme is ready to proceed.

The motion was put to the meeting and lost.

4. *Sustainable Communities Bill*

It was moved by Councillor Carr, and seconded, that Derby City Council:

1. expresses its concern at:
 - the decline of local services and facilities which affects local communities and in particular the elderly and people on the lowest incomes;
 - the resulting decline of local jobs and local economies and the resulting extra traffic and pollution caused by the need to travel further
2. and notes that this combination of factors increases people's feelings of exclusion and lack of involvement; and so
3. supports measures to reverse this process and
4. supports the concept of local sustainability as envisaged in the Sustainable Communities Bill, namely;
 - the promotion of local economies

- the promotion of local services and facilities
 - the protection of the environment
 - the reduction of social exclusion and
 - measures to increase involvement in the democratic process
5. and accordingly resolves to support the Sustainable Communities Bill which:
- requires the government to assist councils and communities in promoting local sustainability in ways decided by them; and
 - sets up a participative process whereby councils and communities can drive the way in which government uses its power and influence to assist with the promotion of local sustainability; and
 - notes that this Bill is therefore fully in accord with current thinking in local government in that it impacts on central authorities and does not impose any new duties on councils but instead enables them to influence how government uses its resources and influence to help councils and communities; and
 - specifically provides that where councils themselves decide to take action to promote local sustainability that they should be given the resources to do so; and so
6. resolves to write to:
- local MPs, asking them to support the Bill; and sign EDM (Early Day Motion) No. 641; and
 - Local Works, the campaign behind the Bill, (at 94 White Lion St, London N1 9PF) expressing its support.

During the debate on this motion, it was proposed by Councillor Baxter, and seconded, that, in accordance with Rule CP10, the duration of the meeting be extended beyond four hours. The motion was put to the meeting and lost.

The motion of the Sustainable Communities Bill, moved by Councillor Carr, was put to the meeting and lost.

5. *Temporary Bus Station*

It was moved by Councillor Care, and seconded, that Derby City Council notes that the temporary bus station is expected to be here for the next two years. Bus passengers are not happy with the current situation:

- The shortage of seats
- Lack of toilets
- Poor signage and information
- Insufficient shelter
- Too much traffic

Council further notes that officers have sought to improve the situation by increasing the seating, renewing signs and ordering an information kiosk. Traffic will be difficult to divert until the Inner Ring Road Major Maintenance Scheme is

complete. Given that it will be at least two years before a permanent bus station is available again, further improvements are a priority.

Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to ensure resources are available to:

- Provide 24 hour toilet facilities in the area
- Significantly increase the number of on-street bus shelters, and
- Investigate providing a 'waiting room'.

During the debate on the above motion, it was proposed by Councillor Baxter, and seconded, that, in accordance Rule CP10, the duration of the meeting be extended beyond four hours. The motion was put to the meeting and lost.

In accordance with Rule CP68, it was demanded by at least 10 members that a recorded vote be taken on the motion, moved by Councillor Care.

The following members voted for the motion:

The Mayor (Councillor Webb), Councillors Allen, Burgess, Care, Carr, Hird, Jones, Latham, Liversedge, Lowe, Marshall, Richards, Samra, Skelton, Smalley, Travis, Troup, West (18).

The following members voted against the motion:

Councillors Ahern, Afzal, Baxter, Bayliss, Blanksby, Bolton, Chera, Dhamrait, Dhindsa, Graves, Higginbottom, Hussain, Jackson, Khan, MacDonald, Nath, Rawson, Redfern, Rehman, Repton, Roberts, Tittley, Turner, Williamson, Wynn (25).

Councillors E Berry, P S Berry, Leeming and Willitts abstained.

Councillor Brown had left the meeting before the recorded vote was taken.

The motion was declared lost.

79/05 Constitutional Appointments and Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Council considered a report of the Corporate Director, Corporate and Adult Social Services, concerning Constitutional Appointments and Appointments to Outside Bodies.

Resolved, on the motion of Councillor Williamson:

To approve the following appointments:

Derby Homes Limited Management Board:

Sue Glithero – an independent board member – until October 2008

Nottingham East Midlands Airport Independent Consultative Committee:

Councillor Bolton – member of the Independent Consultative Committee for the remainder of the current municipal year.

Women's Advisory Committee

Lyn Anglin – Organisational representative of the Friendship Group

80/05 Members' Allowances – Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel

The Council considered a report of the Corporate Director, Corporate and Adult Social Services, on recommendations by the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to Members' Allowances.

It was moved by Councillor Williamson, and seconded:

1. To accept the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel at Appendix 2
2. To decide whether to have four or two vice chairs of the General Licensing Committee for the remainder of the current municipal year.
3. Subject to 1.2 above, to approve revised Special Responsibility Allowances for the General Licensing Committee as follows:

Position	Pro-rata Percentage	Number	Yearly Allowance (2005/06) £
Vice Chair	6%	4	1640.10
OR			
Vice Chair	12½%	2	3416.87
Member	4%	10	1093.40

4. To amend the current Members' Allowances Scheme with immediate effect.
5. To refer the Panel's suggestion for combining the General Licensing Committee and the Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee into a single Licensing Committee, to the political groups for further consideration.

It was moved by Councillor Williamson, with the consent of the Council, that the motion be amended by the deletion of paragraph 2. and 3. and the insertion in their place of the following paragraphs:

2. To continue with four vice chairs of the General Licensing Committee for the remainder of the current municipal year.

3. To approve revised Special Responsibility Allowances for the General Licensing Committee as follows:

Position	Pro-rata Percentage	Number	Yearly Allowance (2005/06) £
Vice Chair	6%	4	1640.10
Member	4%	10	1093.40

The amendment was put to the meeting and carried.

Resolved:

1. To accept the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel at Appendix 2
2. To continue with four vice chairs of the General Licensing Committee for the remainder of the current municipal year.
3. To approve revised Special Responsibility Allowances for the General Licensing Committee as follows:

Position	Pro-rata Percentage	Number	Yearly Allowance (2005/06) £
Vice Chair	6%	4	1640.10
Member	4%	10	1093.40

4. To amend the current Members' Allowances Scheme with immediate effect.
5. To refer the Panel's suggestion for combining the General Licensing Committee and the Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee into a single Licensing Committee, to the political groups for further consideration.

81/05 Duration of Meeting

Resolved, on the motion of Councillor Bayliss, that, in accordance with Rule CP10, the duration of the meeting be extended beyond four hours.

82/05 2004/05 Joint Audit and Inspection Letter

The Council considered a report of the Director of Resources concerning the 2004/05 Joint Audit and Inspection Letter.

Resolved, on the motion of Councillor Williamson:

- 1. To receive the Joint Audit and Inspection Letter.**
- 2. To note that the Accounts and Audit Committee will discuss details of the letter at its next meeting.**

MAYOR

MINUTES OF COUNCIL CABINET REQUIRING THE APPROVAL OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET 29 NOVEMBER 2005

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

Also Present: Councillor Jones

This record of decisions was published on 1 December 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.

Budget and Policy Framework

203/05 Revenue Budget Strategy and Monitoring

The Council Cabinet considered a report on Revenue Budget Strategy and Monitoring. The report set out the Council's latest spending position for 2005/6 and the progress made to date in formulating the budget for 2006/7. The Council Cabinet was continuing in its determination to keep council tax increases at moderate levels, to fund the abolition of home care charges and to redirect our priorities into local areas and priority neighbourhoods. To achieve this, positive action was being taken by Council Cabinet members working closely with their Chief Officers to identify savings. The report included:

- early identification of £863k of savings within 2005/6 budgets while still aiming to achieve a balanced year end position
- early decisions on some specific 2006/7 savings to allow implementation to commence prior to the start of the next financial year, totalling £1.213m
- updated details of the Council's wider budget position and of ongoing work with Chief Officers to create a balanced position to be consulted on in January.

Decision

1. To recommend to Council the approval of the changes to 2005/6 budgets set out in Section 3 of the report and Appendix 2.
2. To note the latest monitoring position in respect of the amended General Fund 2005/6 budgets and the Housing Revenue Account.

3. To recommend to Council the approval of measures to achieve savings in 2006/7 budgets as set out in Section 5 of the report and Appendix 4.

Contract and Financial Procedure Matters

204/05 Contract and Finance Procedures Matters Report

The Council Cabinet considered setting out a number of contract and finance procedure matters.

- the one-off revenue budget required to complete the job evaluation implementation, and the associated funding
- Education capital scheme commencement for Woodlands Community School pool refurbishment.
- Following a competitive tendering process to award the contact for the management of the Council's golf courses.
- Treasury Management Borrowing Strategy.

Decision

1. To approve a one-off revenue budget of £239,298 in 2005/06 and £223,475 in 2006/07 funded from £198,000 earmarked job evaluation reserve and £265,000 2005/06 job evaluation revenue budget.
2. To approve a capital scheme commencement for the swimming pool refurbishment at Woodlands Community School.
3. To award the contract for the management of the Council's golf courses to Commercial Services for a period of two years from 1 January 2006.
4. To recommend Council to extend the Treasury Management Strategy to authorise the Director of Finance to undertake, during the remainder of 2005/06, borrowing in advance to fund the 2006/07 capital programme, on condition that the capital funding requirement for 2006/07 is not exceeded and that the Director of Finance considers market conditions to be beneficial

COUNCIL CABINET 20 DECEMBER 2005

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

Also present: Councillors Hickson and Jones

This record of decisions was published on 22 December 2005. The decisions set out in this record will come into force and may be implemented on the expiry of five clear days unless a decision is called in.

Budget and Policy Framework

220/05 Capital Programme and Resource Monitoring 2005/06

The Council Cabinet considered a report on Capital Programme and Resource Monitoring 2005/06. A monitoring exercise has been undertaken on the 2005/06 Capital Programme up to the end of October 2005. The report provided information on the expenditure to date and sought the necessary approval for changes to the programme. Prior to the monitoring the 2005/06 revised programme was restated to take account of changes approved at previous Council Cabinet meetings. The restated Capital Programme totalled £82m. Following detailed monitoring; the programme now required further change, reducing the programme by £2m in 2005/06. There was an associated increase of £3.6m in later years. The net overall increase of £1.6m is broadly matched by additional specific external funding. The changes mainly reflected a combination of programme additions and slippage. Financial Procedure Rules require Council Cabinet approval for the commencement of schemes in excess of £250k.

Decision

1. To recommend Council to approve the changes to the 2005/06 Capital Programme as detailed in Table 4 of the report.
2. To note the latest monitoring position.
3. To approve the commencement of schemes over £250k.

Budget and Policy Framework

221/05 Capital Strategy 2006/07 to 2008/09

The Council Cabinet considered a report on the Capital Strategy 2006/07 to 2008/09. This was the annual report that confirmed the process that would guide

capital investment decision making as part of the budget process for 2006/7 onwards. Existing principles guiding this process required updating, including the need to consider supported housing needs when considering the best use of resources for housing, the future impact of the Government's recent proposals on Planning Gain Supplement, and the new division between children's and adult services. The timetable for decision making in 2006 showed how the different service programmes and the corporate programme would be subject to review and scrutiny. The report confirmed the expected funding levels over the period from 2006/7 and the proposed allocation of resources to the corporate capital programme, consistent with the updated principles for guidance. Some updating of indicative corporate allocations from 2006/7 was shown, consistent with approvals made to date and subject to the decisions to be taken in the new year following further review. Further pressures likely to emerge on the corporate programme were also set out in the report. The scale of the Council's approved use of self-financing prudential borrowing was set out and demonstrates the effective use of new powers under the Local Government Act 2003.

Decision

1. To recommend to Council an updated and amended set of principles to guide the allocation of funding to support the capital programme from 2006/7 onwards, as set out in Appendix 2.
2. To agree the planned allocation of resources to the corporate capital programme, as set out in Sections 4.2 to 4.4 and Table 2.
3. To note the ongoing re-evaluation of the corporate capital programme, and revisions made to the indicative programme, prior to later decisions by Cabinet and Council.
4. To confirm the approach to self-financing prudential borrowing set out in Section 5.
5. To confirm the process and timetable for taking decisions on the detailed content of the capital programme for 2006/7 to 2008/9, set out in Appendix 3.

COUNCIL CABINET

17 JANUARY 2006

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

Also present: Councillors Hickson and Jones

This record of decisions was published on 19 January 2006. The key decisions set out in this record will come into force and may be implemented on the expiry of five clear days unless a key decision is called in.

Key Decisions

233/05 Supporting Derby Project

The Council Cabinet considered a report on the Supporting Derby Project. Partners working through the Prosperous City Executive of Derby City Partnership have developed a project to help local people take up forthcoming job opportunities at the redeveloped Eagle Centre by targeting training programmes and assisting companies with recruitment. The 'Supporting Derby' project has secured funding under Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership's £300,000 allocation to Derby to employ a Project Manager and support the development of a training centre. The Council has been a key partner in the initiative and is best placed to be the Accountable Body. The project will develop a model for partnership working on employment and skills that can be rolled out to future developments within Derby. It will be an important way of supporting the retail sector in the city, which has been identified as a growth area of the local economy through the City Growth Strategy project.

Options Considered

1. The project developed in Birmingham was successful in helping local residents, particularly those from target groups take up job opportunities at the Bull Ring Centre. This had been used as a model of best practice in developing the Supporting Derby project.
2. Derby City Partnership must work proactively with developers to make sure that Derby residents directly benefit from investment through accessing training and taking up job opportunities.

Decision

1. To agree to the Council acting as Accountable Body for the Supporting Derby project.

2. To retrospectively approve a bid for external funding to pay for the 'Supporting Derby' initiative and to approve the launch of the project.
3. To recommend that Council approve the addition of capital elements of the project to the Regeneration and Community capital programme and to commence the scheme subject to written confirmation that all the external funding is in place.

Reasons

The project is strategically important within Derby City Partnership and is included in the Community Strategy. It will help develop a model for structured partnership working on new developments and investment in Derby City that will maximise the benefits for local residents. In particular, the project targets new job and training opportunities to local people.

Budget and Policy Framework

241/05 Council Tax Base for 2006/07

The Council Cabinet considered a report on the Council Tax Base for 2006/07. The Council has to calculate the 'Council Tax Base' for 2006/07 as a means of raising council tax income from Derby council tax payers. The tax base was an estimated figure which equated to the effective number of domestic properties in terms of Band D in the Council's area during the year. It is used to translate total council tax income requirements in a headline charge for Band D. Charges for other bands were calculated as defined fractions of the headline charge. Due to the continued growth in the number of domestic properties the Council Tax Base could be increased from 68,589.4 to 68,966 Band D equivalent properties.

Decision

That pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI 12003/3012), Cabinet agrees the council tax base for the year 2006/07 as 68,966 band D equivalent properties be approved in accordance with the methodology and estimates shown at appendices 2 and 3 of the report.

243/05 City of Derby Local Plan – Consideration of Representations made on the Proposed Modifications and Adoption of Plan

The Council Cabinet considered a report on the City of Derby Local Plan – Consideration of Representations Made on the Proposed Modifications and Adoption of Plan. A Public Inquiry into objections to the draft City of Derby Local

Plan (CDLP) Review was held in 2003-04 and the Inspector's report received in January 2005. Cabinet considered this at its 6 September meeting last year and a number of proposed modifications placed on deposit from the end of September to 11 November 2005. The report considered objections and supporting representations made to these modifications and sought authority to adopt the Plan. There had been a relatively small number of representations, reflecting the late stage in the Plan preparation process. There were slightly more supporting representations (nearly 40) than objections (around 35). Having said that, some of the objections raised issues that required careful consideration. A summary of the representations and full responses to them is set out in Appendix 2, which could be accessed on CMIS. A shorter summary of the main issues was given in the Director's report. One of the objections referred to the Inspector's recommendation that the Council should urgently review its strategy on convenience retail floor space. A review of this strategy was considered by Cabinet at the 6 September meeting and could be viewed on CMIS as Appendix 3. Also available on CMIS, as Appendix 4, was a copy of a retail report submitted with a planning application for development at the former Friar Gate station. This report argued the case in favour of retail use in the bonded warehouse and was relevant in considering the current objections. It was recommended that a number of very minor changes be made to the Plan, but these were not considered significant enough to need advertising as Further Modifications. Subject to Council approval, the next stage would be to adopt the Plan next month. Once adopted, it would replace the existing CDLP.

Decision

1. To approve the responses to representations, including recommended minor changes, as set out in Appendix 2.
2. To adopt the CDLP Review as previously modified and to authorise the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Community to make the necessary arrangements.
3. To authorise the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Community, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member to approve any further minor textual and/or technical changes to the Plan and to produce a final printed version of it once the six week period for High Court challenge had expired.
4. To note the contents of Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 of the report and to have regard to these in reaching a decision on recommendations relating to them.
5. To accept the justification for modified Policies R2 and H13 set out in appendix 5 of the report
6. To recommend that Council approve the report and appendices on 25 January.

245/05 Housing Rents and Service Charges

The Council Cabinet considered a report on housing rents and service charges. The Government had set a policy to restructure social housing rents over the 10 year period 2002/03 to 2011/12. This involved moving rents incrementally towards a target so that at the end of the tenth year, council housing rents would have converged with those of other Registered Social Landlords – RSLs. 2006/07 is the fifth year of rent restructuring and included some revisions to Government policy on the process with consequent changes being required to the policy used by the Council in determining the rent increase for its tenants.

Decision

1. To approve a variation to the policy of setting rents at the maximum possible while avoiding Rent Rebate Subsidy Limitation (RRSL) penalty to setting rents at a capped 5% increase for the next two years.
2. To recommend that Council on 25 January approve the revision of rent and service charges from 3 April 2006 on the basis set out in the report including:
 - an average weekly rental increase of £2.41 or 5% calculated over 52 weeks
 - an average weekly increase of 3.2% on Service Charges
 - an average weekly increase of 5% on Garage Rents.