

Time began - 4.00 pm
Time ended - 4.55 pm

**COUNCIL CABINET
25 JUNE 2002**

Present: Councillor Williamson – Chair
Councillors Bayliss, Bolton, Gerrard, Kalia, Nath, Repton, Roberts,
Wilsoncroft and Wynn

Also present: Councillors Care and Hickson

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence

Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

The Chair agreed to admit a report entitled “Play Schemes and Junior Activity Schemes” as an item on the grounds that, owing to Community concerns the proposed charges had to be considered before their introduction on 29 July 2002.

As notice of the item had not been given three clear days before the meeting, it was confirmed that, in accordance with Procedure Rule A127, the Chair of the Lifelong Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Commission had agreed that this key decision be considered.

The Chair also agreed to admit an oral report from the Directors of Corporate Services and Development Services updating the Cabinet on the Riverlights proposals.

Urgent Items to which Call In will not apply

It was reported that, as the following items had to be implemented with immediate effect, the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Commission had agreed that they could be treated as an urgent item, and therefore not subject to call in for the reasons outlined below:

Derby Homes – Memorandum and Articles of Association

This matter was urgent as the recommended changes were being considered by the Derby Homes Board on 27 June 2002

Pride Park Phase 2 – Offers for Plot 14.

This matter was urgent as the purchaser aimed to exchange contracts within five working days of the approval of their offer.

Decision

To consider the key decisions as set out above as urgent items in accordance with

Procedure Rule OS44.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Bayliss and Hickson declared personal non-prejudicial interests in item 8 “Derby Homes – Memorandum and Articles of Association” as they had been appointed as representatives of the Council on the Board of Derby Homes.

41/02 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Part 1 minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2002 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Best Value

42/02 Best Value Review of Front Line Housing Services and Sustainable Estates – Progress Report

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Derby Homes setting out progress made on the improvement plan completed following the Best Value Review of Front Line Housing Services and Sustainable Estates, and the results of the inspection carried out by the Audit Commission.

The Cabinet expressed their appreciation of the hard work put in by Officers to achieve the 3 star rating.

Decision

1. To note progress made in implementing the plan.
2. To approve amendments to the improvement plan recommended by the Audit Commission.
3. To refer the report to the Social Care Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Commission for consideration.

43/02 Best Value Review of Vehicle Fleet Management Services

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Commercial Services setting out the terms of reference for the Best Value Review of Vehicle Fleet Management Services.

Decision

1. To approve the terms of reference of the Vehicle Fleet Management Best Value Review as outlined in Appendix A to the report.
2. To refer the terms of reference to the Environment and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Commission for consideration

Urgent Key Decision

44/02 Derby Homes – Memorandum and Articles of Association

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Chief Executive setting out proposed changes to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of Derby Homes, recommended by its Board. These changes provided for the representation of leaseholders on the Board and created restrictions upon tenants and leaseholders who were two months or more in arrears.

In accordance with procedure rule A126, the Chair of the Social Care Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Commission had been advised that this item would be given consideration although not included in the Forward Plan.

Options Considered

No alternative options were considered.

Decision

To approve the proposed changes to the Memorandum and Articles of Derby Homes being recommended by Derby Homes Board at an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on 27 June 2002.

Reason

The changes proposed need to be considered in order to adjust the Memorandum and Articles of Derby Homes to reflect the Board's proposed methods for the election of tenants and leaseholders to its membership and for the conduct of its business.

Key Decisions

45/02 National Land Information Services Initiative

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services setting out details of the National Land Information Service (NLIS) Initiative. The initiative aimed to provide a one stop shop service to deliver, electronically, land and property information to solicitors, conveyancers and the general public. The

Government saw initiatives such as this as an important step for Council's in meeting their E-government targets.

The first steps in moving to electronic service delivery were for the Council to sign the NLIS data provider agreement. This sought to:

- approve a differential pricing policy by reducing by 18% the price of local land searches received electronically
- make sure that the Council implemented its local land and property gazetteer by the 31 December 2002
- make sure that the Council could receive local land search application fees by automated bank credit payment.

In accordance with Procedure Rule A126, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Commission had been advised that this item would be given consideration although not included in the Forward Plan.

Options Considered

No alternative options were considered

Decision

1. To enter into the data provider agreement terms as detailed in the report.
2. To approve a differential pricing policy for Local Land Search requests as outlined in the report.
3. To increase the cost of a standard search from £77.00 to £80.00 with effect from 1 July 2002.

Reasons

For the Council to work towards meeting its E-government targets by modernising delivery of its Local Land Charges and Searches service.

46/02 Rent Restructuring

The Council Cabinet considered a joint report from the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance setting out government policy on rent restructuring and making recommendations concerning those aspects of information which were open for the City Council to determine.

In accordance with Procedure Rule A126, the Chair of the Social Care Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Commission has been advised that this item will be given consideration although not included in the Forward Plan.

Options Considered

The options considered were set out in the report.

Decision

1. To make adjustments towards target rent levels in 10 equal steps.
2. To agree that existing and new tenants would pay the same rent for the same property.
3. To use discretion to vary by 5% from target rents in order to alleviate the highest increases with such adjustments being determined, and applied for in the National Policy Review in 2005.
4. To exclude service charges from the determination of target rents on the same basis as those excluded for rent rebate subsidy limitation purposes or as may be specified in future regulations and guidance.

Reasons

The Council is required to implement rent restructuring to council housing from 2002 and needs to make certain decisions in the manner in which this is implemented.

47/02 Voluntary Playscheme and Special Need Playscheme Organisations - Grants

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Education setting out details of eight grant applications received from Voluntary Play Schemes and Special Needs Play Scheme Organisations.

In accordance with Procedure Rule AI26, the Chair of the Lifelong Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Commission had been advised that this item would be given consideration although not included in the Forward Plan.

Options Considered

No alternative options were considered.

Decision

To award grant aid to the following Voluntary Play Scheme and Special Needs Play Scheme Organisations.

	£
Derby West Indian Community Association	1,759
Derwent Community Play Scheme	3,060
Peartree Play Scheme	2,684 .50
Jigsaw Play Scheme	1,827
Leapfrog Summer Play Scheme	1,957
Lord Street Community Nursery	1,762
Wilmorton Holiday Activity	1,816
Boulton St Mary's Church	100

Reason

The organisations applying for grant aid meet the Council's criteria and objectives for these grant funded schemes.

48/02 Playschemes and Junior Activity Scheme

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Education regarding proposals to introduce charges for holiday playschemes and junior activity schemes for 7 to 14 year old children.

Options Considered

As set out in the report

Decision

1. To place the need for these schemes as a first priority for the use of underspends, thereby deferring implementation of charges.
2. To reconsider the position formally in the 2003-2004 Budget process.

Reason

Concern has been expressed about the impact of the proposed charges for Summer Playschemes and low income families and on opportunities for children.

Performance Monitoring

49/02 Improvement and Development Agency Follow-up Visit

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Chief Executive setting out the findings of the IDeA follow up visit in March 2002 and setting out a series of proposed actions.

Decision

1. To note the findings of the IDeA team on their final follow up visit.
2. To receive further reports during 2002 on the progress made on the three corporate action plans drawn up in response to the IDeA Peer Review and the IDeA / Capita Alliance Review.
3. To refer the report to the Scrutiny Management Commission.
4. To recommend Council to note the action proposed following the IDeA follow up visit.

50/02 Social Services Inspectorate - Annual Review of Performance 2001-2002 and Star Rating for Social Services

The Council Cabinet received a report from the Director of Social Services setting out the outcome of the Social Services Inspectorate (SSI) Annual Review of Performance 2001 – 2002 and Star Rating for Social Services. The Council's Social Services had been rated with two stars; only eight authorities had gained three stars. The annual assessment letter and report had been positive about the Council's achievement whilst identifying areas for improvement. The findings would feed into the Social Services Inspectorate / Audit Commission Joint Review of Social Services in the autumn.

The Council Cabinet expressed their appreciation for the hard work put in by officers to achieve the 2 star rating.

Decision

1. To note the report and the areas identified for improvement
2. To recommend Council to note the positive report and its recommendations for improvement

51/02 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Decision

To exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Urgent Key Decision

52/02 Pride Park Phase 2 – Offers for Plot 14

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services setting out offers received in respect of Plot 14 at Pride Park phase 2 and seeking approval to accept a slightly revised offer for Plot 14a.

In accordance with Procedure Rule AI26, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Commission had been advised that this item would be given consideration although not included in the Forward Plan.

Options Considered

As set out in the report

Decision

To proceed with the proposed sale of slightly revised plot 14a to Ivygrove Developments Ltd subject to the approval of emda.

Reason

The proposed sale terms were considered to be reasonable for the uses permitted and would allow the remediation of the final site to be completed.

53/02 Riverlights

The Council Cabinet considered oral reports from the Directors of Corporate Services and Development and Cultural Services providing an update on the Riverlights Development.

MINUTES END