

Time began 6.00 pm
Time ended 8.40 pm

**COUNCIL CABINET
18 MAY 2004**

Present: Councillor Burgess – Chair
Councillors Allen, E Berry, Care, Carr, Webb and West

This record of decisions was published on 20 May 2004. The key decisions set out in this record will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 clear days unless a decision is called-in.

429/03 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Hickson.

430/03 Late items to be introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

431/03 Identification of Urgent Items to which Call-In will not Apply

It was reported that as the Chair of the Education Commission had not given his consent the following item would not be treated as an urgent item and would therefore be subject to call-in:

Item 6 - Silverhill Primary School (Minute No. 438/03 refers)

432/03 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Care declared a personal interest in Minute Number 443/03, 'Grants to Sports and Community Groups', as her son attended training with Derby Athletic Club, one of the applicants for grant assistance.

433/03 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Part 1 minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

Matters Referred to Council Cabinet

434/03 Public Priority Allocations 2004/05 - Dog Waste Bins

The Council Cabinet noted that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda. It had been included following receipt of a notice of Call-In. The Planning and Environment Commission had considered the Call-In at a meeting on 17 May 2004, where the reasons for Call-In had not been upheld.

Decision

To note that this item had been withdrawn.

435/03 Local Development Framework

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Planning and Environment Commission, which set out the Commission's comments on the Director of Development and Cultural Services report on the changes that the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill would make to the Statutory Planning System.

The Commission were:

- pleased to see the Director of Development and Cultural Services considered that the new framework was based on a less bureaucratic process and more on an inclusive partnership activity. They were also pleased to see the Director felt that a strong element of innovation would be possible.
- concerned about the amount of work that the new legislation would generate for the Development and Cultural Services Department. They were anxious that the extra work did not have a detrimental effect on the other work of the Department.
- concerned that the Development and Cultural Services Department might not have sufficient personnel resources to complete the work that will be required by the new legislation by 31 March 2007.
- were of the view that there may be problems explaining the changes in the legislation to the public and wanted to know how this would be achieved.
- seeking clarification of how the necessary level of public involvement in the Strategy of Community Involvement would be achieved and how this issue could be made interesting to the public. The Commission also wanted to know how the Council could ensure that the input it receives from the public reflects the views of the majority of Derby people.
- alarmed that having examined the constituent parts of the LDF, the independent inspector might impose recommendations that were not in the

best interests of Derby. The Commission asked for views of the Director of Development and Cultural Services on this issue.

- keen to be kept informed of the development of the "different ways of working" referred to in 3.7 of the Director's report and, where appropriate, to be involved in that process.

The Director of Development and Cultural Services reported that since the original report to Council Cabinet the Bill had received Royal Assent. A further report would be brought to Council Cabinet in the Summer of 2004.

Decision

- 1 To note the report.
- 2 To note that the Director of Development and Cultural Services would be reporting back to the Planning and Environment Commission on the issues raised.

Best Value

436/03 Service Access Review

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services, setting out details of the Council's Service Access Review Final Report and Improvement Plan.

The Service Access Best Value Review Team had identified 28 recommendations to make sure the Council delivered a 'step change' in customer service. The Scrutiny Management Commission had considered the draft final report and welcomed the recommendations, but were concerned that the report did not include a financial framework. These were included in Appendix 3 to the report.

Decision

- 1 To approve the recommendations of the Review Team that were considered to be deliverable without significant impact on approved budgets as set out in Appendix 3 Category A.
- 2 To approve recommendations as set out in Appendix 3, Category B where any additional costs were believed to be provided for within existing budgets, subject to a report back to the Council Cabinet if further approval was required under financial procedure rules for the costs and funding, before implementation commenced.
- 3 To approve the remaining recommendations of the Review Team in principle only pending further approval of scheme details, costs and funding by the Council Cabinet to implement them.

437/03 Reshaping of the Best Value Review Programme 2004/06

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Finance, which set out proposed revisions to the Council's Best Value Review Programme, to integrate Best Value type reviews, with those under Building for Excellence and arising through the Council's intended Business Process Re-engineering activity. Appendix 4 of the report included the current Best Value Review Programme, which envisaged that 16 reviews would start and complete in 2004/06. This was in addition to reviews and other activities to improve corporate capacity through the building for excellence programme, which had identified the need to do some business process re-engineering type reviews to help deliver the e-Derby and Business Improvement strand of the Best Value Review programme.

The proposed programme was based upon the following criteria set out in the report:

- Poor service performance
- Inspection recommendation
- Council priority
- Lack of previous inspection activity
- Service that would benefit from structured process to develop it

Reviews that were currently underway were identified in the report, but it was recommended that they should not continue for the reasons given, these included

- Educational and social inclusion
- Sustainable Derby
- Revenues and benefits

The remaining current Best Value Reviews, which included Support Services, Bereavement Services and Sport and Leisure in the Community, had made progress and would continue applying the criteria as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report. This Appendix gave the rationale for the proposed Review Programme 2004/06, with the main element of Building for Excellence and BPR reviews included for completeness.

Appendix 3 of the report showed the proposed review programme, which retained the principle of a phased approach to reviews each year to manage the demands on members and officers.

Decision

- 1 To note the report.
- 2 To rationalise the Council's Best Value Review Programme according to the principles described in the report.
- 3 To agree the review programme as outlined in Appendix 3 of the report.

- 4 To refer the report to the Scrutiny Management Commission for consideration subject to minor amendments to paragraphs 3.9 and 3.13

Key Decisions

438/03 Silverhill Primary School

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Education, setting out details of remedial work to be carried out at Silverhill Primary School, following the release of asbestos fibres, during the course of work to replace windows in the school.

At the time the report was written the Health and Safety Executive were investigating the incident and the Council's internal audit team was also investigating all procedures relating to the commissioning of building work by schools and the avoidance of asbestos exposure.

As part of the investigation, auditors were to examine the contract procedures and budget control at Silverhill Primary School. There were indications that a robust procedure for establishing a best value contract for window replacement had not been carried out. As a consequence it was proposed that the following action be taken:

- The establishment of a broadly standstill budget for 2004-05. This would require the governing body to amend their current plan, which makes full use of the growth;
- The requirement that any major items of expenditure not included in the revised budget plan would need to be agreed with the authority;
- The allocation of the growth in the school budget as a contingency to meet – depending on the conclusions of the internal audit investigation – some of the costs of refurbishment and re-instatement;
- Close working between the governing body and authority, particularly through the Head of Finance exercising oversight over the management of the budget - detail to be agreed with the governors;
- Keeping the right to delegation of the management of the budget under review, in the light of the exercise of these arrangements and the outcomes of the internal audit.

It was noted that the Council Cabinet member for Lifelong Learning would be writing to all the schools that had accommodated Silverhill Pupils to thank them for the assistance.

Options Considered

Suspension of the right to a delegated budget had been actively considered. This could be done immediately in certain circumstances and otherwise with one month's notice and in both cases the governing body could appeal to the Secretary of State. However, there were advantages to working closely with the governing body to achieve the desired ends more quickly and effectively. This was expected to develop more robust financial management and ensure the protection of health and safety, whilst reversing the possibility of suspension of rights in the future. It would also incorporate an element of positive development.

Decision

- 1 To note and endorse measures to oversee the management of Silverhill Primary School's delegated budget.
- 2 To authorise the Director of Education, in consultation with the Council Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, to suspend the governing body's right to a delegated budget if necessary.

Reasons

This 2004/05 budget at Silverhill Primary School had to be managed to take account of the costs of the remedial works following the release of asbestos. The authority needed to be in a position to respond to this and the outcomes, once known, of the internal audit investigation.

439/03 Best Value Review of Services to Road Users - Final Report

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Development and Cultural Services setting out the final report and improvement plan following the Best Value Review of Services to Road Users, which formed part of the 2003/06 Programme of Best Value Reviews.

Options Considered

The Services to Road Users Review Team considered a number of options as part of the Review, which were outline in section 8 of the final report.

Decision

- 1 To approve in principle the final report and improvement plan of the Best Value Review team, subject to additional information on links between transport provision in Education and Social Services.
- 2 To refer the amended report to the Planning and Environment Commission for comment.

Reasons

The improvements outlined in the Improvement Plan were intended to lead to improved services and outcomes associated with the delivery of services to road users. However, this was a large area of work and clearly there were a number of key areas that did not come forward to the Best Value Review, which would remain a priority.

440/03 Draft City Public Health Strategy

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services setting out the Public Health Strategies 5 year framework for action to improve health in Derby and tackle health inequality. The Strategy set out the key health issues in Derby and established a set of key objectives. The Public Health Strategy was developed as a joint initiative of the City Council and the Primary Care Trusts within the Derby City Partnership.

Options Considered

No other options were considered.

Decision

- 1 To approve the draft City Public Health Strategy that would go out to public consultation, subject to necessary minor amendments identified by the Director of Corporate Services.
- 2 To refer the report to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Commissions and the three Advisory Committees for comment.

Reasons

- 1 A city public health strategy would give a framework for partnership working to improve health and tackle health inequalities.
- 2 This was an innovative strategy that would put Derby at the forefront of this type of work.

441/03 Southern Derbyshire LIFT/Integrative Disabled Children's Service

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Social Services, setting out details of the Council's participation in the establishment of the Southern Derbyshire LIFT, which was approved in January 2003.

A revised appendix 2 and 3 were circulated at the meeting.

Options Considered

- 1 Other options for the provision of the new building were considered in previous reports and rejected in favour of utilising the LIFT initiative.
- 2 Other options to participating at the proposed level in the Strategic Partnering Agreement are:
 - Not to participate in the Strategic Partnering Agreement:
 - To fully participate in the Strategic Partnering Agreement and give exclusive rights over future developments to Lift Co. This would oblige the Council to give LIFT Co exclusive rights over all new build and capital projects to enhance community based social care facilities in Derby for the next twenty years.
 - To become a shareholder in Lift Co. This would be as a minority shareholder in a private sector controlled company. The majority shareholder would be the private sector partner who will have 60% of the shares. This would require investment in Lift Co.

Decisions

- 1 To agree to be a participant in the Southern Derbyshire LIFT Strategic Partnering Agreement without giving the Council's exclusive rights over future developments to LIFT Co.
- 2 To enter into partnership arrangements with the Central Derby Primary Care Trust to establish an integrated Disabled Children's Service under Section 31 of the 1999 Health Act, including an agreement between the Council and LIFT Co. to clarify liabilities should either party fail to pay.
- 3 To enter into a joint lease plus arrangement for the new premises within the LIFT lease plus framework.
- 4 To appoint the Chief Executive to represent the Council on the Strategic Partnering Board with the Director of Social Services having the Deputising role.

Reasons

The Council had an overall interest in the LIFT Programme that would see a number of potential projects coming through over the next few years. It was important that the Council exercise its influence over the development of these health and social care facilities for the city. The Council would not be in a position to do this if it did not continue to engage with the lift process similarly and specifically through continued membership of the Strategic Partnering Board.

The Council had a specific interest in one of the first tranche LIFT Schemes. The new building required for the Integrated Disabled Children's Service was being

provided through the LIFT process. The details of this were reported to the Council Cabinet in December 2002 and the new service would be based on the site of the former Armstrong Family Support Centre in Derwent, which had been demolished.

442/03 Residents' Privileged Parking Schemes Proposed Priorities 2004/05

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Development Cultural Services setting out a list of locations where interest had been expressed in the introduction of a Residents' Privileged Parking Scheme.

On 24 March 1999 the Planning and Technical Services Committee had resolved to adopt a residents' privileged parking policy in an effort to give priority on street car parking to residents in residential areas, where they were regularly precluded from parking close to their homes from non-residents.

Due to the workload created in investigating and implementing parking schemes, it was agreed that a maximum of two schemes would be considered at anytime. It was agreed that the Council Cabinet would establish which locations would be given priority for further investigations and consultations.

The Council Cabinet were of the view that should sufficient resources become available during the year Kings Mead Close should be pursued

Options Considered

There were no other options considered.

Decision

- 1 To ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate, and if appropriate take forward, the introduction of a residents privileged parking scheme at Arboretum Street during 2004/05.
- 2 To ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to continue investigations into the parking associated with the City Hospital.
- 3 To ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to take forward the introduction of a residents' privileged parking scheme at Mead Close during 2004/05 should sufficient resources become available and to keep the relevant Council Cabinet Member informed to any progress made.

Reasons

A number of schemes were listed in Appendix 2 of the report and Arboretum Street appeared to satisfy the Council's Residents' Privileged Parking Policy and hence would offer the best opportunity for such a scheme to be taken forward. Therefore, it was considered that Arboretum Street receive priority and, together with the

continuation of the scheme at the City Hospital, would be the Scheme to take forward during 2004/05.

443/03 Grants to Sports and Community Groups

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Education, which set out the details of 8 applications for grant aid to voluntary groups and community associations.

Options Considered

The Regeneration Co-ordinator in the External Funding Unit of Derby City Partnership had been consulted on the grant applications.

It was considered that the project did not meet the necessary funding criteria for the National Lottery Awards For All Scheme and that no other source of funding was currently available.

Decision

1 To award grant assistance to two voluntary sports organisations as detailed below, and at appendices 2 and 3 of the report:

- Derby Athletic Club £7,125
- North of England Athletic Association £3,450

2 To award grant assistance to Heatherton Community Association for £4,000 as detailed at appendix 5 of the report.

3 To award grant assistance to five Voluntary and Special Needs Playschemes as detailed below and at Appendices 6 and 7:

- Jigsaw Playscheme £2,042
- Lord Street Community Nursery School £1,920
- Derby West Indian C.A. Playscheme £1,950
- Peartree Playscheme £3,000
- Boulton St Mary's Church £1,000

Reasons

The Organisations applying for grant aid met the Council's conditions, rules and financial regulations for grant funding schemes, as detailed in section 3 of the Grants to Voluntary and Community Groups information pack.

444/03 Inspection of the Adult Learning Services

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Education setting out details of the Adult Learning Service's post-inspection action plan. At its meeting on 16 March 2004, the Council Cabinet received a report on the outcomes of the Adult

Learning Inspectorate inspection of the Adult Learning Service, and it was resolved that the Council Cabinet would receive the final action plan prior to its admission to full Council.

Options Considered

Following an ALI inspection, the Education Service must produce a post inspection action plan and submit it within the agreed timescale.

Decision

- 1 To recommend full Council to adopt of the Adult Learning Service's post inspection action plan as attached as appendix 2 of the report.
- 2 To authorise the Director of Education to make amendments before that adoption in the light of comments from the Learning and Skills Council.

Reasons

The Adult Learning Service was inspected by the Adult Learning Inspectorate in the week beginning 12 January 2004. Following publication of the ALS report, the Authority had until 30 April 2004 to complete a post inspection action plan and submit it to the Derbyshire Learning and Skills Council (DLSC). This was submitted but it was subject to approval by full Council.

445/03 Relocation of the Adult Learning Programme from St Helen's House

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Education, setting out details of the proposed relocation of the Adult Learning Programme from St Helen's House to an alternative venue. This has become necessary because of the extent of the building difficulties and the ALS had sought alternative venues for the courses which were as convenient as possible for existing learners as well as encouraging more people to learn.

The Rycote Centre had been identified as an appropriate building in the short term, but with potential for further development as a modern adult learning centre, if Learning and Skills Council funding could be accessed to make improvements. The Rycote Centre was in a central location close to St Helen's House and with good transport links.

The Director of Education noted that as the retail unit Park Farm, Allestree had been withdrawn from the market an alternative venue was being sought.

Options Considered

- 1 The option to continue to deliver services at St Helen's House was explored, but the outstanding building maintenance issues prohibited this.

Decision

- 1 To approve the relocation of the Adult Learning Programme, currently operating from St Helen's House to alternative venues including the Rycote Centre with effect from July 2004.

Reasons

- 1 The Council Cabinet had accepted that there was insufficient Council funding available to carry out the backlog of maintenance work to bring St Helen's House up to standard for the delivery of Adult Education.
- 2 Even if the building repairs had been carried out, the building could not provide a cost effective, fully accessible, modern learning environment, because the building's listed status restricted the adaptations. Suitability of accommodation was an issue highlighted in the recent Adult Learning Inspectorate report on the Adult Learning Service.

446/03 Proposed Derby City Partnership Marketing Organisation

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Development and Cultural Services setting out details of a proposal to set up a Derby City Partnership Marketing Organisation, which originated from a Derby City Partnership Board strategic discussion, in which the following key issues were identified:

- the lack of a co-ordinated, strategic approach to marketing the city
- the lack of a single, unifying brand for Derby, against which all DCP partners could market themselves and the city
- the need for a much greater number of businesses and organisations in Derby to get involved in formulating and using the strategy and brand
- the need for an organisation to develop these proposals on behalf of DCP
- a need for this organisation to become sufficiently independent so it did not get identified as a Council activity

The proposed structure of the Derby City Partnership Marketing Organisation was given in appendix 2 of the report.

Options Considered

- 1 The Derby City Partnership Marketing Group considered establishing a full independent organisation, most likely as a company limited by guarantee, to undertake the marketing function on behalf of the whole of DCP. This was

dismissed as being too complicated, time consuming in its initial start-up and implementation, and more risky than the recommended option.

- 2 The possibility of an independent marketing person, or use of a marketing consultant were both considered. These would have operated peripatetically across the Derby City Partnership, but was dismissed, as it would not be sufficiently intergraded with Derby City Partnership or the Council.

Decision

- 1 To approve the principle of the Council contributing to the Derby City Partnership marketing exercise, and to establishing and managing the Marketing Team within the Department of Development and Cultural Services.

Reasons

- 1 The proposal responds to the DCP Board's perception of the shortcomings in marketing strategy and implementation across the city.
- 2 This response can be rapid but sustainable.
- 3 The appointment of the Marketing Manager is the first and most significant post, and needs to be completed as quickly as possible.

Budget and Policy Framework

447/03 SureStart Early Years Development and Childcare Strategic Development Plan 2004-2006

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Education, which set out the SureStart Early Years Development and Childcare Strategic Development Plan 2004-2006. The EYDCP Strategic Plan for 2001-2004 had come to an end and the following table reflected the Partnership's performance against the key targets set by the DfES:

	Target by March 2004	Achieved
1	Create 330 neighbourhood nursery places	330 places
2	Create 1111 out of school childcare places	1,071 places
3	Convert 48 pre-school playgroup places to full day care	52 places
4	Provision of universal nursery education for all 3 year olds	Achieved by 2001
5	Make available 4 days training each year to all early years and childcare staff	Achieved
6	1 qualified teacher to every 10 non-maintained settings	Working towards achievement of this ratio
7	"Steps to Quality" quality assurance scheme to be developed and nationally approved	Achieved investors in Childcare status August 2003

8	15% of providers to achieve accreditation with a national scheme	Working towards achievement of this, 16 registered settings out of 74 working towards this.
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The SureStart Unit set each local authority new targets for delivery of Early Years and Childcare for 2004-2006, which included 4 key priority areas:

- integrating services for young children and their families
- creating and sustaining childcare places
- ensuring quality access and inclusion
- developing the workforce

In return for funding allocated by the SureStart Unit to Derby City Council towards the costs of implementing the EYDCP, the unit set targets, which included the delivery of 880 new childcare places. 293 of the new places would be created in the children's centres previously reported to the Council Cabinet on 28 October 2003. The table below shows the targets set by the SureStart Unit:

Category	Target number of new places: Disadvantaged areas:	Target number of new places: Other areas
Revenue funded childcare places	231	238
Playgroup/pre-school conversion : Capital funded	70	48
Children's Centres	293	
Total new childcare places	594	286
Out of school places : Capital funded	130	

It was noted that SureStart new childcare place funding was ring fenced within the general SureStart grant and could not be used other than to create new childcare provision.

Decision

- 1 To approve the SureStart Early Years Development and Childcare Strategic Development Plan 2004-2006.
- 2 To agree the conditions for awarding SureStart New Childcare Places Funding as recommended by the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.
- 3 To refer the report to the Education Commission prior to submitting the plan to full Council, as part of the budget and policy framework.

448/03 Youth Service Plan 2004-05

The Council Cabinet considered a report from Director of Education which set out the proposed Youth Service Plan 2004-2005.

The Youth Service was required to submit an Annual Service Plan to the Government Office in the East Midlands by the end of May 2004, subject to approval by full Council, as part of the budget and policy framework.

It was a requirement that the Annual Youth Service Plan reflect the Government's specification for an 'Excellent Youth Service' and describe the Local Authority's role in providing it both directly and in partnership.

The Government identified the following indicators to enable the Youth Service to measure its own performance, which it was now required to do and to set appropriate improvement targets:

- Reach 25% of the 13-19 population through its various delivery points
- Participate regularly with 15% of the 13-19 population
- Enable 60% of participants to gain recorded outcomes through their involvement in the Service
- Enable 30% of participants to gain an accredited outcome through their involvement in the Service.

Decision

- 1 To approve the 2004-2005 Youth Service Plan
- 2 To refer this plan to the Education Commission for its comments prior to submission to full Council

449/03 Best Value Performance Plan 2004-05

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Finance setting out details of the Council's Best Value Performance Plan 2004-05. It was noted that in February 2004 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister published the addendum to Circular 03/2003, issued in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999: Part 1 Best Value and Performance Improvement. This was intended to reduce the content of Council's Best Value Performance Plan, particularly for good and excellent Councils and to remove the requirement to include information that was available from other sources.

In accordance with the government's approach to deregulation it will no longer be necessary to provide any information that can be obtained from other sources. Hence it will no longer be necessary for authorities to provide the following:

- CPA scores;
- Summary financial information;
- Progress in implementing improvement measures over the past 3 years;
- Outcomes or impacts arising from those measures;
- Progress against Local Public Service Agreements;

For authorities that are categorised in CPA as excellent or good, the Government has reduced its requirements further.'

All authorities categorised in CPA as excellent and good must include the following terms in their Performance Plan published by June 2004, and in subsequent years:

- (a) Details of performance:
 - Out-turn performance over the past year on all Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI)s,
 - targets for the current year and subsequent 2 years for all BVPIs.
- (b) A brief statement on contracts. Councils should certify in their plans that they have followed the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters for all individual contracts during the past year which involve a transfer of staff.

The amended guidance would enable the Council to streamline the contents of its BVPP, so that it was focused on the needs of performance reporting and monitoring and its wider performance management framework. A summary of the proposed content and layout of the Performance Plan was included in appendix 2 of the report.

Decision

- 1 To agree the proposed contents and layout for the Best Value Performance Plan, BVPP to be published by 30 June 2004.
- 2 To refer the proposed approach and draft plan to Scrutiny Management Commission for comment.
- 3 To note the arrangements for updating and approving the contents of the plan.
- 4 To ask that the Special Purposes Committee approves an updated version of the draft BVPP, subject to any amendments being agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leaders of the three main groups on the Council.

Performance Monitoring

450/03 Social Services Inspectorate - SSI - Annual Review of Performance 2003 - Progress Report

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Social Services setting out the Council's progress against the 'areas for development', highlighted within the SSI annual review of performance 2002/03 of Derby Social Services presented to the Council Cabinet on 16 December 2003. The report broadly broke the progress down into two main areas of Services for Children and Families and Services for Adults including Older People. It was the expectation of the SSI that the assessment

letter and report would be placed before an appropriate public committee of the Council.

Decision

To note progress against the Social Services Inspectorate SSI Annual Review of Social Services report, which was presented to the Council Cabinet on 16 December 2003.

451/03 Internal Audit Plan 2004/2005

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Finance which set out the initial planned programmed of audit reviews for 2004/05, the results of which would be reported back to the Council Cabinet on a half yearly basis.

Decision

To note the Internal Audit Plan for 2004/05.

452/03 Specialist School Strategy for Derby

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Education, setting out the Development of a Specialist School Strategy in Derby. It was reported that the Department for Education and Skills - DfES was aiming for three quarters of all secondary schools to gain specialist status by 2006, and it was likely that this would be the case in Derby. The report outlined a number of benefits of a city-wide strategy, which would include:

- support for non-specialist schools to gain designation
- a collective agreement about requirements for additional specialisms to ensure a good range
- an enriched city-wide curriculum through the use of e-learning by specialist schools
- using the expertise of specialist schools to support other schools and their pupils
- promote further collaboration between city secondary schools to spread good practice and raise standards.

Therefore it was proposed to develop a city-wide strategy for the development and role of specialist secondary schools, including the secondary special schools, that would include the following:

- establishing a process for assessing the city-wide needs for specialisms such as business and enterprise or engineering and gaining agreement with headteachers for city priorities
- establishing a process for supporting new applications including gaining sponsorship, linking to the local business community

- determining with each specialist school the support it can offer as part of a city-wide strategy. This could include support for primary schools
- developing a plan for specialist schools as part of the broader planning for secondary education in the city. This plan could determine their role in further initiatives such as "languages for all" and links to Derby University Teacher Training Department.

The report stated that two schools had been designated from September 2004; Derby Moor Community School (sport) and Noel Baker Community School (languages). Two other schools; Woodlands Community School (technology) and West Park Community School (maths and computing) were in the process of applying for specialist school status. An outline of the role of specialist schools was attached as appendix 2 to the report.

Decision

- 1 To note the development of a Specialist School Strategy in Derby and to request further reports on progress.
- 2 To provide Council support for securing sponsors to schools applying for specialist school status.

Contract and Financial Procedure Matters

453/03 Financial and Contract Procedure Matters Report

The Council Cabinet considered a joint report from the Directors of Finance and Corporate Services, setting out a number of financial matters which required Council Cabinet approval.

Decision

- 1 To approve the extension of the contract for the disposal of refrigerators and freezers by 6 months to 13 August 2005, subject to satisfactory terms being negotiated in conjunction with the Director of Finance and Chief Legal Officer.
- 2 To approve the addition of the Planning Delivery Grant 2004/2005 and associated expenditure budgets to the Development and Cultural Services department revenue budget 2005/2005 as detailed at paragraph 2.2.
- 3 To approve the Director of Finance, on behalf of the Council, to sign the Funding Agreement for 3 Cities Town Net project as detailed at paragraph 2.3.
- 4 To approve a licensed deficit of £5,568 for Peartree Infants School.
- 5 To approve in principle the commitment of Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) reward funding to fund existing projects up to end of 2007/08, to ensure that staff contracts can be continued and LPSA performance sustained.

- 6 To approve the appointment of Bartlett Scott Edgar to operate the Council's recruitment advertising agency contract from 1 July 2004.

454/03 Contracts for Responsive Maintenance to Public Sector Dwellings

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Policy, setting out details of contracts for Responsive Maintenance to public sector dwellings, which would allow Derby Homes to continue to develop a good repairs and maintenance service for Derby City Council tenants. It would also provide the opportunity to enter a partnership arrangement for Commercial Services. This would introduce further improvements in line with the Best Value principles for construction in the Egan report 'Rethinking Construction'.

Decision

- 1 To approve in principle the award of the contracts for the Responsive Maintenance of public sector dwellings to Commercial Services for a further four years.
- 2 To authorise the Director of Policy, in consultation with Derby Homes, to enter into negotiations with the current contractor, Commercial Services.
- 3 To authorise the Director of Policy on negotiating satisfactory terms, approved by the Director of Finance, to award the Housing and Repair and Maintenance contracts to Commercial Services for four years subject to annual reviews.

455/03 QUAD - Derby's Visual Arts and Media Centre - Appointment of Development Director and Financial Statement

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Development and Cultural Services, setting out details of the appointment to the post of Development Director, in order to drive forward the crucial stages of the building design and programme development. This would involve a Council Cabinet decision to waive Contract Procedure Rule CPR 16, as allowed for under Contract Procedure Rule 6.

Of the 4 individual applicants and a bid from the existing project consultant, David Powell Associates (DPA), a selection panel representing the project partners and the Council had reached its conclusion, which was that the most suitable applicant was from the existing consultant, in the name of Peter Mount from David Powell Associates - DPA. The proposed way forward was to issue a full-time contract to DPA for the forthcoming development period. The cost would be £50,000 in a full year, comparable with the terms enjoyed by DPA up to the present.

The QUAD cash flow and milestones were detailed in table 1 of the report.

Decision

- 1 To waive the normal tendering process to allow David Powell Associates –DPA - to be appointed to the post of Development Director to the project.
- 2 To approve the development period costs identified as Project Stage Ai in table 1 and to note the results of the project's latest financial review.
- 3 To ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to bring a report to a July meeting of the Council Cabinet on the further development of the QUAD project.

456/03 Boulton Lane Park Community Centre - Development Project

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Education, setting out details of the development project for Boulton Lane Park Community Centre. The centre was a very well used building with a wide range of community groups, but there was pressure on the current space and some groups were being turned away because they could not be accommodated. It was proposed that the project would pay for an extension to the community centre, which would provide additional space for existing and new user groups. Funds had been secured through Transforming Your Space and Small Change to extend the building, make the toilets accessible to disabled people and carry out capacity building with the current management committee.

Decision

To approve the commencement of the capital project for the development of Boulton Lane Park Community Centre.

457/03 Connecting Derby Financial Update

The Council Cabinet considered a joint report from the Director of Development and Cultural Services and Director of Finance, setting out details of the approval to carry funding of £2.6 million to 2004/05, currently being discussed with the Department for Transport. The 2004/04 approved capital programme included a £1.243 million LTP allocation for connecting Derby. This was allocated to the completion of Phase 1 works in the City Centre, and to fund the Special Projects design team. In addition £0.54 million of funding was available for use on the Connecting Derby Scheme, which was held in an earmarked capital reserve, but had not yet been committed in the 2004/05 Capital Programme.

Additional work needed to be undertaken in 2004/05 in order to progress phases 2 and 3 of the Scheme. The financial implications were detailed in table 1 of appendix 1 and would be funded from a combination of :

- existing resources of £0.54m
- £2.6m SCA carryforward, once DfT approval has been confirmed

- £2.6m SCA carryforward, once DfT approval has been confirmed and following the outcome of the on-going scheme re-appraisal.

The Director of Development and Cultural Services reported that the Department for Transport had approved the carry forward request.

Decision

- 1 To approve the addition to the 2204/05 Capital Programme and commencement of preparatory work detailed in table 1a, to be funded from capital reserves.
- 2 To approve in principle the earmarking from the £2.6m SCA, £400k for design and public inquiry costs detailed in Table 1b, subject to agreement with the Director of Finance.
- 3 To approve in principle, addition to the 2004/05 capital programme and scheme commencement of preparatory works detailed in table 1c, to be funded from the remainder of the £2.6m SCA carry forward, subject to confirmation of funding by the DfT, the re-appraisal funding and agreement with the Director of Finance.

MINUTES END