

DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 30 MARCH 2011

STATEMENTS BY COUNCIL CABINET MEMBERS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE CP32

STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Since the last meeting of the Council, I am pleased to advise Members of the following initiatives / achievements...

The last section of the **Connecting Derby** scheme opened on 16 March. This completed the inner ring road around the centre of the city and makes it much easier for everyone to access the centre. Other traffic management works associated with the scheme should be completed during April and these measures will stop the unnecessary traffic running through the centre making it a better place to be for visitors, shoppers and people who live and work there.

Improvement works costing £1.2m have been completed on the **Morledge** including new paving and the installation of extra disabled parking spaces, more places to store bikes and a new taxi rank.

Some 859 jobs will be created and safeguarded after we approved funding for the first six successful applicants to the Council's £10m **Regeneration Fund**. These are...

- Refurbishment of the Darley Abbey Mills Stable Block - 7,000 sq.ft.
- The Cathedral Quarter Enterprise Centre – 15,000 sq.ft.
- A 50,000 sq.ft. office development site on Cathedral Square.
- Conversion of the former Magistrates Court on Full Street – 26,000 sq.ft.
- A 75,000 sq.ft. office development on Friar Gate Square.
- A 5,500 sq.ft. office development at St Mary's Gate.

The **Museums Transformation Programme** has received funding of half a million pounds from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. This funding will be used to help with the development of the Silk Mill, a major programme to promote Joseph Wright, a community heritage programme, and the realisation of a new organisation to run the city's Museums Service on behalf of the Council and people of Derby.

Improvement work has been completed at the **central library**. This includes installing a ramp to the library's entrance to make it more accessible for wheelchair users. The library now also has a new counter, improved lighting and new shelving.

Movement, a scheme to encourage girls in Derby to get active, has been awarded a Sports Participation Award at the Sports Industry Awards 2010.

The Mountaintop, currently running at the Guildhall Theatre, won the Olivier Award for Best New Play in 2010 and has received outstanding reviews nationally. Derby was granted the exclusive rights to perform the only production of the play outside of London.

Work has now started on the £12m **Mackworth Extra Care Scheme**. This flagship scheme will offer the kind of care older people in Derby are requesting.

We have successfully completed all of the new properties in the Council's **new build scheme** bringing 8 new homes to Cowsley Road and 25 to Elton Road. A number of tenants have already moved into these highly sustainable homes. Work has now started on St David's Close bringing a further four flats and one 3 bedroom house.

Our **Adult Learning Service** has received a very positive Ofsted inspection. The inspectors were particularly impressed with the use of e-learning across the curriculum, the extensive network of partnerships between the Council and other organisations and the effective use of resources and value for money.

Finally I am very pleased to announce that following a rigorous external assessment last week, the Council has achieved **excellence in equality**. This makes Derby one of only six authorities in the UK to achieve the highest level of the equality framework and is a fantastic result which we should all be proud of.

STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Members will be aware of the recent approval of the Council's new Local Transport Plan, LTP3.

It was agreed that maintenance of our existing network should take priority in light of our current budgetary pressures, with public transport and active travel, ie sustainable travel choices, given a lower priority.

In recent years, cycle provision, bus lane provision and active travel has been supported via LTP2 and the Connecting Derby Project amongst other initiatives, with significant investment made.

Of course, as our financial position improves, priorities will be able to be reviewed. However, it has always been our intention to seek significant external funding to continue our commitment to improving, promoting and investing in sustainable transport.

I am delighted that the Council is now very close to finalising its submission to bid for up to £5million of funding via the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

If successful, this would allow us to take forward many projects to encourage and support both residents and those who work in the City to use public transport, cycle or walk.

We've seen a big increase in bus lane provision over the last few years and Derby is recognised as a Cycling City, but we feel that there is still significant potential to improve things further if funding were available to us.

STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

Derby's Adult Learning Service was inspected by Ofsted from 7th – 11th February 2011.

The service, which provides learning opportunities for over 4000 adults, was awarded the overall judgement of "Good with Outstanding Aspects".

Amongst the key points in its report Ofsted stated

- "All aspects of provision are good and in work based learning they are outstanding. The programmes are closely aligned to the Council's strategic priorities.
- It provides particularly good value for money.
- The service works particularly effectively in partnership with other Council departments and organisations in Derby including employers and the probation service".

The service has made remarkable progress in the last four years. It has improved from Satisfactory to Good since its 2007 inspection and now ranks amongst the best local authority adult learning services across the country.

The Council's Derby Adult Learning Service offers a wide range of courses including:

- book-keeping and computers
- languages
- British Sign Language
- English for Speakers of Other Languages
- arts and crafts
- creative writing
- keep fit and dancing
- cookery
- GCSEs.

Some courses lead to a qualification and others are for personal development. Class sizes are usually small, with an average of 12 people a class, to make sure that everyone gets individual attention.

Courses are held in venues across the city during the day and evening. Crèche facilities are available for some day-time courses. The Council offers a range of discounts on course fees to adults who are getting state benefits.

This result is a credit to an ever improving service that works diligently to deliver education to a wide range of service users.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate all staff involved with the Adult Learning Service and wish them and their service users an "outstanding" future.

STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

Work started last Wednesday March 23 at Derby City Council's flagship 98-apartment extra care housing scheme in Mackworth.

The scheme will see a mix of 37 one-bed and 61 two-bed apartments in an extra care community for older people which will include on-site care staff as well as communal facilities including a café, beauty and health suite, gym and educational areas which can be used by the community as well as residents.

The project is a partnership between Derby City Council, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and development partner Sanctuary Housing. The HCA is investing £2m of government funding for the £12m scheme.

Mansell, who are developing and project managing the build, were represented by business development manager Paul Taylor

The Council has donated the land at Hanwell Way to Sanctuary on a long-term lease as well as providing £2.2m towards the build cost.

This development will see the former Arthur Neale residential home demolished. Included in the development area is the already demolished former Lois Ellis residential home.

The whole scheme expected to take 18 months to complete.

Thanks go to all involved with this project:

- Sanctuary Housing
- Mansell Construction
- Homes and Community Agency
- DCC Adult Social Services
- DCC Housing Strategy and Development
- DCC Estates
- DCC Legal Division
- DCC Planning

We look forward to a fruitful partnership that will deliver the care needs for older people for the foreseeable future.

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QUESTIONS AND REPLIES UNDER PROCEDURE RULE CP11

a) Question from Simon Bacon to Councillor Poulter

Does the City Council have official data on the percentage of material types collected under the kerbside collection which remain in the current residual waste stream due to poor recycling promotion / lack of participation by the public? If so what are those percentages?

Reply by Councillor Poulter, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

There is currently no official data relating to what recyclable material is still taken in the residual (black bin) waste stream.

The Council's approach to household waste recycling and the active participation and co-operation of the residents of Derby has ensured that the City has consistently been amongst the top quartile of Unitary Authorities.

During 2009/10 Derby recycled and composted around 45% of its household waste, with early indications for 2010/11 showing that we will continue to make progress and improve on that performance. Also with over 90% of the City's households covered by the scheme we know that there is amongst our residents a broad awareness and acceptance of the scheme that we provide

Nonetheless, the City's Waste Management Service is aware that there is still scope for targeting material that is not recycled or composted. Officers will be working on how to identify this material and develop campaigns that will most effectively divert recyclate into the appropriate bins (brown or blue), during the coming financial year.

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QUESTIONS AND REPLIES UNDER PROCEDURE RULE CP11

b) Question from Peter Barker to Councillor Holmes

Could the council confirm the present status of the Darley Abbey Mills & Stables Strategy first published in spring last year?

Reply by Councillor Holmes, Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment

The City Council adopted the Darley Abbey Regeneration Strategy at the Council Cabinet meeting on 28 September after consultation of the draft document during the summer. There are two main parts to the Strategy:

- Regeneration of the Mills complex – this work is being led by the Council's Regeneration Department
- Refurbishment and bringing onto the market of the Council-owned Stable Block in Darley Park – this is being led by the Parks Service, with support from the Property Services Department.

The Stables will be re-marketed after not being able to appoint a suitable partner to work in partnership with the Council following the completion of an exercise to recruit a partner that would be willing to work with the Council to restore, develop and improve the stables. In conjunction with the Agents – Innes England, Estates and Parks, Officers have put together a revised plan to re market the Stables that has already commenced with advertisements being placed in the local press. Interviews and assessment will take place in May and final selection during the first week in June.'

A partnership has been formed with the principal mill owners, chaired by Councillor Jennings. This also comprises English Heritage and the World Heritage Site Partnership. This group has overseen the following progress:

1. Initial investments in property improvements by Mill owners – prompting 8 new commercial workspace lettings at the complex
2. Submission of a £1.6m application to the Regional Growth Fund (December)
3. Submission of a £1.2m application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (January)
4. Creation of the City Council's Heritage Grant Scheme for the Mills which went live in January and was formerly announced at the international property show (MIPIM) in March
5. Early preparation in advance of a call for European Regional Development Funds (to be submitted imminently)
6. Liaison with the Environment Agency over flood protection matters.

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QUESTIONS AND REPLIES UNDER PROCEDURE RULE CP11

c) Question from Steve Hassall to Councillor Marshall

During the 2010 Local and General Elections concerns were raised over the integrity of the postal voting process. What is Derby City Council doing to ensure that the process of voting by post remains a secure, viable and robust way of electing both our local Councillors and MP's?

Reply by Councillor Marshall, Cabinet Member for Resources

The Electoral Registration Officer's staff has procedures in place to ensure rigorous integrity checks are carried out from the receipt of a postal vote application form to the validation of a postal vote statement received in respect of an election. These procedures include:

- Postal vote application forms are designed incorporating statutory requirements, including electors providing a reason if they require their postal vote delivering to an address other than their registered 'home' address.
- The majority of postal vote applications require provision of an elector's signature and disclosure of their date of birth as a fraud prevention measure. The only circumstance when a signature is not required is if the elector is unable to provide one, perhaps because of a disability. In these cases however, the elector must apply for and be granted a waiver by the Electoral Registration Officer.
- All applications are acknowledged so that an elector has the opportunity to raise any concerns.
- Members of election staff are trained and have a written procedure for dealing with suspicious postal vote applications. This is an effective tool to identify suspect applications. This procedure identifies potentially fraudulent applications which are completed in the same handwriting and bear similar signatures as well as identifying large numbers of forms being submitted from the same address. The Elections Team has close liaison with the local Police Single Point of Contact, who is available to give advice on suspicious applications and investigate allegations of fraud.
- When an elector votes by post, they submit a postal vote statement bearing their signature and date of birth. This statement is scanned and compared against the original records held on the electoral registration data base. Any discrepancy is flagged and checked by a trained adjudicator and votes can be rejected at this stage.

The Council produces a local protocol on postal voting for candidates, agents and canvassers, inviting them to sign an agreement to follow the protocol during an election and to continue to work together to achieve high public confidence in future elections. Additionally, the Returning Officer and Chief Constable of Derbyshire Constabulary issue a joint letter to all candidates and agents underlining the need for high standards of conduct and inviting recipients of the letter to sign a voluntary declaration stating that all persons acting on their behalf are made aware of and will comply with the Electoral Commissions national Code of Conduct on handling applications to vote by post and postal ballots.

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QUESTIONS AND REPLIES UNDER PROCEDURE RULE CP11

d) Question from Simon Bacon to Councillor Poulter

The Raynesway HWRC site is run on behalf of the City Council by HW Martins under the RRS contract. Considering RRS will have factored in all costs when making their offer to the council why has the council agreed to allow RRS to bank all the money from the recycled materials on the site which are sorted into material type by the public?

Reply by Councillor Poulter, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

The contract that the Council has with RRS for the management of the Raynesway HWRC site includes RRS taking responsibility for the costs associated with disposing of the residual waste and provision for them to sell on recycled materials. The financial considerations of this provision were part of the calculation to ensure Value for Money from the contract. The advantage for the Council in this arrangement is that there is a clear incentive for RRS to maximise the material that is recycled which contributes to the excellent recycling figures for the City. As a consequence of this, a very high proportion of the materials taken to the site are recycled. The other important advantage for the Council is that the financial risk associated with the fluctuation in the value of recycled materials is borne by the contractor and not the Authority.

In summary, the contract ensures that the maximum amount of material is recycled and the residual waste going to Landfill minimised and the financial risk resulting from variations to the value of recycled material is borne by the contractor.

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QUESTIONS AND REPLIES UNDER PROCEDURE RULE CP11

e) Question from Peter Barker to Councillor Holmes

What is the council's position on the new environment agency document for the Lower Derwent Flood Risk Management strategy published in January this year where it states its preferred option is to widen the flood plain of the river, the so called Blue Corridor, through the Little Chester area of the city. Are the council in agreement with this option?

Reply by Councillor Holmes, Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment

The Lower Derwent Flood Risk Management Strategy indicates that some areas along the river are at higher risk of flooding than before and that the risk is increasing. Measures that reduce this risk are in principle to be supported and we are currently working with the Environment Agency to consider how this can be achieved. The Environment Agency considers that a scheme to realign some existing flood defences could reduce the risk for hundreds of properties by creating greater conveyance of flood water through the City. However, the EA are still undertaking detailed modelling of flood scenarios and still have to establish where the new defences would go, how high they would need to be, how much the overall project would cost and how it could be delivered.

The Council will be able to firmly establish its position on the Lower Derwent Strategy and the Blue Corridor concept when this information is available.

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COUNCIL MEETING – 30 MARCH 2011

QUESTIONS AND REPLIES UNDER PROCEDURE RULE CP25

1) Question from Councillor Troup to Councillor Poulter

The Council recycle bring sites are to close by 31 March. If all the material collected at these sites over the last twelve months were to be landfilled rather than recycled, how much would this cost the Council in charges and how much income from recycling would be lost?

Reply by Councillor Poulter, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

Tonnages taken at bring sites across the City has been falling over the years as we have rolled out our successful kerbside recycling scheme. "Recycle for Derby" continues to make progress serving over 90% of households in the City and it is this approach that has replaced the need for a network of bring sites across the City.

Waste Management itself collects around 1,100 to 1,200 tonnes of material per year from recycle bring sites. The rest is collected by private sector companies either independently or in conjunction with the City.

Experience tells us that the 1,200 tonnes of material will not be lost to landfill. The "Recycle for Derby" blue bins will be used by residents for material previously taken to bring sites. Therefore much of the recycling income and diversion from landfill will still be achieved. Notionally if none of the material were recycled and all of it went to land fill the cost would be around £90,000 per annum.

Waste management is having encouraging discussions with the supermarkets and the private sector companies that collect from them. This could mean that local people would still be able to recycle materials such as glass, paper and card at the main supermarkets in the City.

In addition Derby residents can still recycle glass, paper and card at the City's Household Waste and Recycling Centre at Raynesway.

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QUESTIONS AND REPLIES UNDER PROCEDURE RULE CP25

2) Question from Councillor Troup to Councillor Holmes

In justifying the Council bid for funding through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, the Derby Telegraph on 23 March quotes you as saying "We've seen a big increase in bus lane provision over the last few years and Derby is recognised as a Cycling City, but we feel there is still significant potential to improve things further if funding were available to us."

How can you justify the hypocrisy of this statement when the Cabinet plan to remove two of the most strategic bus lanes in the city, wasting money that we can ill afford, and when this strategic decision is against evidence, infuriates bus operators, and does not have majority support within the Council as is evidenced by the decision of the Neighbourhoods Commission? How many more bus lanes do you plan to remove in your quest for sustainable transport?

Reply by Councillor Holmes, Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment

Councillor Troup the facts, which you should be fully aware of, are that in recent years we have seen a huge increase in bus lane provision across the City;

Siddalls Road Bus Lane

Osmaston Road Bus Lanes

Traffic Street Bus Lanes

Burton Road Bus Lane

Normanton Road Bus Lane

Uttoxeter New Road Bus Gate.

with a major route to be installed in Friar Gate from Ashbourne Road into the City in April this year.

Our sustainable transport bid will allow us to further support public transport. That investment would be significant.

Regarding the bus lane removals, I stand by my previous statement made to the press that... the meetings I've attended in my role as cabinet member responsible, the correspondence and media that I've been involved in have all been approached with an open mind and willingness to listen and consider the arguments.

To me, this has always been about finding the right balance based on keeping the city moving, recognising the needs of those who cycle, use public transport and use the car along with many other considerations.

I will continue to make any future decisions regarding our transport infrastructure based on that considered and balanced approach.

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DERBY CITY COUNCIL

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QUESTIONS AND REPLIES UNDER PROCEDURE RULE CP25

3) Question from Councillor Roberts to Councillor Poulter

Can the cabinet member confirm that the much vaunted CCTV camera recently installed in Blagreaves is not fit for the purpose of identifying either the vehicle registration or the driver of the vehicle?

Reply by Councillor Poulter, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

The camera in question is a day night vision camera with a capability of recording 25 frames per second which is considered to be real time. However, due to the fact that this camera is in fact one utilised all over the city in various locations and in differing environments it has what is called auto focus, this means that the camera will focus on a specific object as its focal point then adjust the focus to obtain a clear picture. When you utilise the camera in a situation such as the crossing at Blagreaves the camera focuses on the crossing as this is the largest non moving object it can find. Once a car starts entering the field of view the camera sees the car but still wants to focus on the road which is at a different focal length, giving a somewhat blurred image of vehicles this all happens in a split second. The only way to identify drivers and vehicle index marks with success is with purpose built cameras such as the GATSO these use cameras with a resolution of up to 11 million pixels allowing greater clarity, the cameras in these units have a pre-set focal length to enable fixed focus to a target at a pre determined distance, combined with a fast shutter speed.

I believe the initial request for this camera to be installed was for a deterrent factor.

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QUESTIONS AND REPLIES UNDER PROCEDURE RULE CP25

4) Question from Councillor Turner to Councillor Poulter

For each of the last three years what is the breakdown of the amounts of waste collected at the waste recycling centres across the city?

Reply by Councillor Poulter, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

2007/8 - 5,827 Tonnes comprising,
2,065 Tonnes of plastic,
986 Tonnes of paper,
1,443 Tonnes of cans,
434 Tonnes glass, and
899 Tonnes of cardboard

2008/9 - 5,832 Tonnes comprising,
2,091 Tonnes of plastic,
994 Tonnes of paper,
1,483 Tonnes of cans,
410 Tonnes of glass,
849 Tonnes of cardboard, and
5 Tonnes of tetrapaks

2009/10 – 3,069 Tonnes comprising,
916 Tonnes of paper at supermarket sites
813 Tonnes of card at supermarket sites
332 Tonnes of glass at supermarket sites
6 Tonnes of tetrapaks @ supermarket sites

Because commingled recyclate delivered were taken to the Materials Recycling Facility at Victory during this year, Waste Management are unable to give an accurate breakdown of all the recyclate collected at all bring sites during this year.