

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE HELD
AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, WIGSTON ON 24 JUNE 2008**

Present: Councillor Mrs S B Morris - Chairman
Councillor K J Loydall - Vice Chairman

Councillors: L A Bentley, T S Biring, J W Boyce, M Carrara,
Mrs L Eaton, C S Gore, R E R Morris and J Vickerstaff.

Officers in attendance: Mr M Hall, Mr P Johnson, Mr M Cregg,
Mrs A Court and Mr G J Waterfield.

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors G A
Boulter and P A Hings.

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the
Committee held on 18 March 2008, be taken as read,
confirmed and signed.

2. RISK MANAGEMENT – PRESENTATION BY ZURICH MUNICIPAL

The meeting received a presentation given by Mr Philip Coley of Zurich Municipal, the Council's insurers, on recent developments in Risk Management for Local Authorities.

It was noted that Mr Coley considered that the Council's Risk Management Strategy was a good one. He considered that the Council were currently doing the right things in this area, but referred to developments to be introduced in 2009 where CPA assessments will be replaced by CAA (Comprehensive Area Assessment) appraisals. The CAA will be looking at how Council's work with other agencies in partnerships. It will bring together inspection regimes and examine how services are being delivered in partnerships.

Mr Coley considered that the profile of managing risk would become much higher. The Council's internal insurances of managing risks and those of its partners in any particular area would then be the subject of scrutiny. He also considered that the Council were presently taking up the key challenges and was of the view that CAA could be achieved without turning the new processes into any bureaucratic nightmare.

Following a period where an opportunity was given for Members to ask questions, the Chairman thanked Mr Coley for attending the meeting.

3. PRESENTATION FROM THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS ON THE AUDIT AND INSPECTION PLAN 2008/2009

Mr Neil Bellamy and Mrs Mary Perry of the Audit Commission attended the meeting for the discussion on the Audit Commissions Audit and Inspection Plan for Oadby and Wigston Borough Council for the 2008/2009 year, as set out in report pages numbered 1 to 23 which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.

The meeting noted the contents of the report and Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Auditors at the conclusion of their presentation.

RESOLVED: That the External Auditors report be noted.

4. SOUTH WIGSTON REGENERATION EXPENDITURE PLAN 2008/2009

The Committee considered the Report of the Director of Community Services as set out in report pages numbered 23a to 23h which was circulated prior to the meeting and which should be considered as a composite document.

Concern was expressed that the Regeneration Plan lacked clarity and detail and that progress in achieving targets within the Plan was slow. It was considered that the Plan needed to include the whole community (not just youth provision) and needed consulting upon.

It was noted that the work with priority neighbourhoods appeared to be missing from the report. Also work within the retail area was missing, as was any feedback on this work.

The point was made that there was a need to twin track the work of the South Leicestershire College and County Council with the community plan, in case one failed.

It was also noted that discussions with the College failed to cover sports activities (including changing rooms) on Blaby Road Park.

Furthermore, concern was expressed about the Council's ability to deliver the Gateway project.

The view was expressed that, in future, it would be more helpful for Members if the report were to be presented in the same 'traffic signal' format as those of the Service Delivery Plans, for tracking purposes.

RESOLVED: that Officers report to the next meeting of the Committee on the matters raised in the discussion on this subject, as outlined above.

5. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Committee considered the Reports of the Chief Executive as set out in report pages numbered 24 to 42 which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.

A) Core Funding Grants

Councillor C S Gore declared an interest in the item concerning Age Concern, Wigston and withdrew from the meeting for the discussion on this matter.

Councillor J W Boyce also indicated that as there was a perception that he had an interest in the same item, he would also withdraw from the meeting for the discussion on the matter.

RESOLVED: That the following Grants Applications to Voluntary Organisations be approved:

Age Concern	£5,500
Helping Hands Trust	£54,400
South Wigston Community Association	£4,500
Oadby and Wigston Senior Citizens Association	£2,500
SSAFA	£2,500
Voluntary Action for Oadby and Wigston	£3,000 (consideration of the remainder of the grant be deferred until the next meeting to enable the Deputy Chief Executive to obtain further information).

B) Electronic Committee System

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The quotation received from supplier A in the sum of £26,300 be accepted for the reasons stated in the report.
- 2) Authority be delegated to the Head of Legal and Licensing in conjunction with the Chair of Policy Committee and the Deputy Chief Executive to negotiate specific terms, conditions and prices as may be necessary to adapt the software package to suit this Authority's preferred committee administration system.

C) Closed Circuit Television Viewing Code of Practice

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The Code of Conduct referred to in the report be adopted for use of CCTV throughout the Borough.
- 2) Delegated authority be given to the Head of Legal and Licensing in consultation with the Chief Executive to make minor amendments to the Code of Practice as necessary.

- 3) A report be prepared for submission to the next meeting of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership on the funding of the CCTV camera equipment and its financial implications on the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships budget.

6. REPORTS OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Committee gave consideration to the Reports of the Deputy Chief Executive as set out in report pages numbers 43 to 122 which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.

A) Budget Outturn Report 2007/2008

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The Budget Outturn position for 2007/2008 be noted and be taken into account when reviewing the Annual Statement of Accounts for 2007/2008.
- 2) That Revenue Budgets totalling £38,030 be carried forward to 2008/2009.
- 3) The Capital Budgets totalling £628,850 be carried forward to 2008/09.
- 4) That the policy on the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) 2007/2008 set out in Section 6 of the report be approved.

B) Annual Governance Statement 2007/2008

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Approval be given to the Annual Governance Statement for inclusion in the Annual Statement of Accounts for 2007/2008.
- 2) Council be recommended to approve a new Local Code of Corporate Governance at its meeting to be held on 29 July 2008.
- 3) If practicable, the Deputy Chief Executive prepare his report for submission to the next meeting of the Committee focussing on points of the Authority as asked to address arising from the Auditor's report considered earlier in the meeting.

C) Annual Statement of Accounts 2007/2008

Councillor C S Gore congratulated the Deputy Chief Executive and his staff on turning out the Accounts Report in such a tight timescale. These sentiments were reiterated by Councillor K J Loydall.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2008 be approved subject to audit and signed by the Chairman.

D) Treasury Management Audit Report 2007/2008

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The Treasuring Management Annual Report for 2007/2008 be received and noted; and
- 2) In future the report be prepared showing also variable budgets and the budget outturns.

E) Annual Audit Report 2007/2008 and Audit Plan 2008/2009

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The Annual Audit report for 2007/2008 be approved as a supporting document to the Annual Governance Statement; and
- 2) The internal Audit plan for 2008/2009 be noted.

F) Backward Look Efficiency Statement 2007/2008

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs S B Morris congratulated the Deputy Chief Executive and his staff on the figures achieved on this report. Councillor J W Boyce also commented on the good performance.

RESOLVED: That the Draft Backward Look Efficiency Statement for 2007/2008 be approved.

G) Review of Strategic Risk Register

RESOLVED: That approval be given to the updated Strategic Risk Register.

H) Local Authorities Business Growth Incentive Scheme (OABGI)

RESOLVED: That the year three OABGI allocation of £194,011 be added to the special projects reserve taking the balance from the reserve to £403,812.

I) Website Monitoring

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The progress against the Web Development Plan be noted.
- 2) Approval be given for the revised timescales for those web updates recorded as red in the report; and
- 3) A report on the Council's ITC Section be prepared for submission to either the next Council or next Policy Committee meeting.

J) Service Development Plans 2007/2008 – Carried Forward of Targets

RESOLVED: That approval be given to the carrying forward of eleven Service Delivery Plan targets to 2008/2009, as set out in the appendix to this report.

7. ITEM ADMITTED TO THE MEETING UNDER SECTION 100B(4)B OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

By reason of special circumstance that the following additional item of business needs to be considered before the next meeting of the Committee the Chairman was of the opinion that the item should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

8. PROJECT FUNDING GRANTS

The Committee considered a Report of the Chief Executive concerning Project Funding Grants as set out in report pages numbered 42a to 42f which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £500 be made to the Wigston Civic Society from the 2008/2009 Budget for Grants to Voluntary Organisation.

The meeting closed at 9.28 pm.