

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE HELD AT THE COUNCIL  
OFFICES, WIGSTON ON TUESDAY 30 OCTOBER 2007**

Present: Councillor J W Boyce - Chairman

Councillors: T S Biring, G A Boulter, M O Carrara, Mrs L Eaton, C S Gore,  
S M Rizvi and J Vickerstaff

Apologies for Absence were received from: The Chairman Mrs S B Morris, the  
Vice Chairman K J Loydall and Councillors L A Bentley and P A Hings

Substitutes: Councillor Mrs S A Dickinson attended the meeting as a  
substitute for Councillor Mrs S B Morris

Officers: Mrs A Court, Mrs W Back, P Johnson, G Waterfield, Mrs L  
Middleton, Mrs S Cairns, A Thorpe and Mrs S Fowler

**9 CHAIRMAN**

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Councillor J W Boyce was elected  
as Chairman for the meeting.

**9. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Committee held on 21 August 2007, be taken as read,  
confirmed and signed.

**10. PETITIONS**

Councillor G A Boulter presented a petition signed by 41 residents of the Fairfield Estate,  
South Wigston on the following terms:

“We are campaigning for a five a side football pitch on the park with floodlights  
because we need somewhere to play football where we are not annoying anyone  
like at the shops and it is not dark so we cannot get hurt. While bringing round  
these forms to ask most of the people on Sussex Road and some of the people on  
Gloucester Crescent as we think it affects them because of the light and noise  
although they will be turned off at around 9.00 pm”.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The Petition be received; and
- (2) The matter be referred to the Services Committee  
for consideration.

## 11. **REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

The Committee gave consideration to the Reports of the Director of Community Services as set out in report pages numbered 246 to 252 which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.

### (a) Oadby and Wigston Town Centre Master Plan Area Action Plans

In addition to the report the Committee also considered the reports on the preferred options for both Oadby and Wigston Town Centres which were circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Town Centre Master Plan Area Action Plan Development Plan documents preferred options reports be approved for the purposes of public consultation.

### (b) Local Development Framework Consultants Brief for South East Leicestershire Principal Urban Area Transport and Accessibility Assessment

RESOLVED: That

(1) The requirement to appoint consultants to undertake work in support of the Local Development Framework be noted; and

(2) Approval be given to appoint consultants to carry out work on the South East Leicestershire Principal Urban Area Transport and Accessibility Assessment.

### (c) Local Development Framework Consultants Brief for Planning: for Climate Change Study Joint Working

RESOLVED: That

(1) The requirement to appoint consultants to undertake work in support of the Local Development Framework be noted; and

(2) Approval be given to appoint consultants as partnering agreement to carry out work on an energy efficiency and renewable energy study.

## 12. **REPORTS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Committee considered the Reports of the Chief Executive as set out in report pages numbered 253 to 312 which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.

### (a) Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Councillor Carrara pointed out that on the occasion of the Borough Council Elections in May 2007, there was conflict at the Coombe Park Pavilion, the Polling Station for the Oadby Brocks Hill Ward, due to football matches being played on Coombe Park on the date.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The Scheme for Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places as set out in the report be approved and adopted.
- (2) Officers ensure that whenever the Coombe Park Pavilion is used as a Polling Station in future, all other uses of the Pavilion on that day are cancelled.

(b) Adoption of Flood Basin

The Meeting noted that this item had been withdrawn from the Agenda.

(c) Corporate Equality and Diversity Strategy

RESOLVED: That the Equality and Diversity Strategy and its three year rolling action plans, as included in the report be approved and adopted.

(d) Civic Alliance Demonstration Project – Beacon Status Bid

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The progress on the Beacon Status Application be noted; and
- (2) The Council reaffirms its commitment to work with partner agencies in order to reduce the incidents of re-offending and the associated cost to the region.

(e) Appointment of Trustee – Oadby Village Hall Trust

In response to a question from Councillor C S Gore Officers, officers undertook to check on whether the Council had more than one representative on the Oadby Village Hall Trust.

RESOLVED: That Councillor J Vickerstaff be appointed as a Trustee to the Oadby Village Hall Trust for the period expiring on 4 August 2011.

### 13. **REPORTS OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Committee considered the Reports of the Deputy Chief Executive as set out in report pages numbered 313 to 401 which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document

(a) Comprehensive Spending Review 2007

The Deputy Chief Executive outlined the position concerning the likely funding to be received from Government in the 2008/9 year.

Councillor G A Boulter questioned whether monies outstanding from previous years grants had yet been received. The Deputy Chief Executive informed the meeting that although the Council had nearly caught up this year, but monies from previous years had not been recovered.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) External Audit Performance Management Review

RESOLVED: That the outcomes from the Performance Management Workshops and the actions needed to improve Performance Management by the Council be noted.

(c) Benefits Section Staffing Review Management Review

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Approval be given to the creation of the additional post of Senior Benefit Officer (support).
- (2) Approval be given to the deletion of the post of Customer Services Officer to be replaced by an additional Benefits Assessor post.
- (3) That the Committee note the information regarding an additional administration post within the Benefits Section that may be the subject of a future report.
- (4) A report be brought to the next meeting of the Policy Committee after June 2008 on the benefits that can be accrued after the creation of this post.

(d) Budget Consultation 2008/2009

RESOLVED: That approval be given to the subject areas included in the 2008/9 Budget Consultation process as set out in the report

(e) Website Monitoring

RESOLVED: That the Committee note the proposed method for monitoring the development of the Council's Website

(f) Customer Services

RESOLVED: That the progress made with the Customer Services Action Plan be noted and the actions being taken be endorsed.

(g) Review of Strategic Risk Register

The meeting noted that a report recommending a way forward on the recovery of IT systems in the event of problems would be available for the end of the year.

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

(h) Expenditure Review 2007/2008

The Deputy Chief Executive answered questions on the occurrence of a high number of incidences of the Council employing agency staff.

The meeting also noted that the Council had today received notification of a settlement with the unions involved on the staff pay settlement for this year.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted

(i) Corporate Debt Policy

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Debt Policy as set out in appendix one to the report be adopted

(j) Local Authorities Business Growth Incentive Scheme (LABGI)

RESOLVED: That the additional grants of £34,100 be added to the special project reserve, taking the balance in the reserve to £250,801

(k) Concessionary Travel

RESOLVED: That report be noted

(l) Shared Services

RESOLVED: That

(1) The Committee note the progress made with the five priority areas for Shared Services as set out in the report.

- (2) Approval be given to the exception to standing orders to enable Trantact Ltd to be appointed to assist in preparing a business case for the future provision of ICT Services at a cost not exceeding £20,000.
  - (3) Approval be given to an extension to the contract with Drivers Jonas Chartered Surveyors in the sum of £10,000 for a condition survey of Council owned buildings; and
  - (4) The Head of Personnel be requested to provide a report to the next meeting of the Committee on Staffing Implications should any joint working arrangements be entered into.
- (m) Progress on Service Delivery Plans 2007/2008

Councillor C S Gore drew attention to the intention for the Council to implement an employee assistance programme and adopt the HSE Stress Management Standard in the period January to the end of March 2008 and expressed reservations whether this could, in fact, be achieved in this period.

RESOLVED: That the progress be noted

14. **ITEM SUBMITTED 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 needed 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.

15. **NATURAL PLAY AREA – BROCKS HILL COUNTRY PARK**

The Committee considered the Report of the Chief Executive, copies of which have been circulated at the meeting as set out in report pages 402 to 403.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the Head of Legal and Licensing be authorised to complete the necessary documentation and registration processes in compliance with the Big Lottery Funds Standards Conditions of Grant.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

