At a meeting of the LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL held at the Town Hall at FIVE O'CLOCK in the afternoon on Thursday, 30 JANUARY 2003 duly convened for the business hereunder mentioned.


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BUSINESS

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1. LORD MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. NOMINATIONS FOR CIVIC OFFICE 2003/2004

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5. PETITIONS
   - Presented by Councillors
   - Presented by Members of the Public

6. QUESTIONS
   - From Members of the Public
   - From Councillors

7. REPORTS OF CABINET
   Corporate Capital Programme 2003/4 to 2004/5
   Council Tax – Taxbase
   Housing Capital Programme 2002/3 and 2003/4
   Housing Revenue Account 2003/4
   Annual Library Plan
   Anti-Social Use of Fireworks

8. REPORTS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (ACHIEVEMENTS REPORTS)
   Arts, Leisure and Environment
   Housing
   Social Services and Personal Health

9. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK
   Periodic Electoral Review of Leicester City
10. COMMITTEES - To vary the composition of any Committee of Council.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

12. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS
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<td>GORDON HARRY GETLIFFE, PAUL THOMAS WESTLEY</td>
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East Knighton Ward
JOAN GARRITY

Thurncourt Ward
JOHN GRANT ALLEN
BRENDA ROSE MAW

Evington Ward
MICHAEL HOWARD JOHNSON
ANTHONY O'BRIEN

Westcotes Ward
ANDREW IAN CONNELLY
NIGEL HOLDEN

Eyres Monsell Ward
HENRY DUNPHY
MARK EDWARD JOSEPH FARMER

Western Park Ward
ROGER BRIAN BLACKMORE
PETER COLEY

Humberstone Ward
JOHN VINCENT MUGGLESTONE
ROMAN PETER SCUPLAK

West Humberstone Ward
MERRICK ROLAND PLATTS
STEPHEN MARTIN THOMPSON

Latimer Ward
RAMNIK KAVIA
VEEJAYKUMAR PATEL

West Knighton Ward
BARRY COLES
GARY GLENDON HUNT

Mowmacre Ward
MARGUERITE ANNE HENRY
JOHN ROBERT TAYLOR

Wycliffe Ward
ABDUL RAZAK OSMAN
FAKI FAROOK FAKI MOHAMMED SUBEDAR
LORD MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Captain Norman Ord, Lord Mayor’s Chaplain, opened the meeting in prayer.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Lord Mayor invited Members to declare any interests they might have in the business on the agenda and/or indicate if Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

Councillors Draycott, Getliffe, Roberts, Westley, Vincent, Seare and Shelton all declared a personal interest in the Cabinet Reports on the Housing Capital Programme 2002/03 and 2003/04 and Housing Revenue Account 2003/04, each being a tenant and/or having family members who are a tenant or have a lease of non-furnished housing accommodation.

NOMINATIONS FOR CIVIC OFFICE 2003/2004

Councillor Willmott informed Council that, at the Annual Meeting of the Council, to be held on 22 May 2003, the Labour Group proposed to nominate Councillor Ramnik Kavia for election to the office of Lord Mayor for the year 2003/4.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Councillor Blackmore drew to Council’s attention that the transcript of the Members’ Questions at the 28 November 2002 Meeting. In response to a question from Councillor Vincent on cuts to the highways maintenance revenue budget, Councillor Bhatti, in replying, had, on several occasions, mistakenly transposed the initials SSA to SAS. (As required by the Council’s Constitution, the unintentional verbal error had been corrected in the Minutes.)

Subject to noting the above comment, it was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor, and carried:-

95. “That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 November 2002, having been printed and a copy sent to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and that they be approved as a correct record.”

PETITIONS

PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Allen presented a petition with 70 signatures in the following terms:-

We, the undersigned, residents of Kirminton Gardens, Thurmby Lodge Estate, Leicester, hereby petition Leicester City Council Department to carry out necessary work (preferably parking bays as there are not enough parking spaces available for residents own vehicles) to enable vehicles to travel around the road within the need to use the grass verges.
At present there is a ridge as deep as 28 inches in places around the
majority of the green.

The road is filthy, causing residents to walk the dirt into our home
constantly.

In adverse weather conditions the mud and flooding make the road
extremely slippery and dangerous.

Emergency vehicles would have difficulty getting around the green
without going onto the grass and risking getting stuck.

The deep ruts constitute a danger to children playing.

After many years of suffering the same problems and requesting that action be
taken, nothing has been done. We now feel that these problems should be given
urgent attention.

Moved by Councillor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Maw, and carried:-

96. “That the petition be referred to the Town Clerk for consideration and action
as appropriate”

Councillor Draycott presented a petition with 51 signatures in the following terms:-

This is a notice to Coleman Road and Broad Avenue. We need your support. Have
you got a tree right next to your house. You might want to read this.

Dear Sir/Madam

You may already know that on Sunday, 27 October 2002 the weather was very
unacceptable. You should already have an idea that this will happen again. As you
may know, a tree fell down in Broad Avenue and was very close to hitting a car and
last year a tree fell down on Coleman Road General Hospital.

So we are asking for your help that some of the tree branches need to be cut before
anything could happen to your house or your car, even worst your families and
friends. So could you please sign the box below and give your home address, so
we could give this to the Council and they would help us by cutting the branches
near your house in the area of Coleman Road and Broad Avenue.

Moved by Councillor Draycott, seconded by Councillor Shelton, and carried:-

97. “That the petition be referred to the Town Clerk for consideration and action
as appropriate.”

Councillor Henry presented a petition with 88 signatures In the following terms:-

In view of the PFI initiative site on the Bursom Industrial Estate and the resulting
increase in traffic we, the undersigned, call upon Leicester City Council to carry out
the following work on Holderness Road and Border Drive:-

1. The installation of traffic calming measures.
2. To provide parking bays.
This work will ensure the safety of residents and prevent these roads from becoming 'rat runs' and we need to be consulted at every stage of the development.

Moved by Councillor Henry, seconded by Councillor Garner, and carried:-

98. “That the petition be referred to the Town Clerk for consideration and action as appropriate.”

Councillor Clair presented a petition with 31 signatures in the following terms:-

Petition against the development of a community centre on Kitchener Road. I/we live in local proximity of the planned development for the Kitchner Road Community Centre take full objection against the proposed development.

Moved by Councillor Clair, seconded by Councillor Draycott, and carried:-

99. “That the petition be referred to the Town Clerk for consideration and action as appropriate.”

Councillor Farmer presented a petition with 40 signatures in the following terms:-

We request that the City Council give urgent consideration to the early provision of a bus shelter outside Cooper House on Pasley Road. This stop, near the Exchange, is currently used by many local residents, especially the elderly and parents with young children, groups who have particular need of both seating and protection from the weather while waiting for bus services.

Moved by Councillor Farmer, seconded by Councillor Henry, and carried:-

100. “That the petition be referred to the Town Clerk for consideration and action as appropriate.”

Councillor Farmer presented a petition with 106 signatures in the following terms:-

We, the residents of Bretell Road, Camfield Rise, Tovey Crescent, Bentinghouse Road and Bentinghouse Gardens in Eyres Monsell, request the City Council completely resurface these roads in light of the general rutted and cracking nature of the surfaces, together with the increasing numbers of potholes which have developed with age.

Moved by Councillor Farmer, seconded by Councillor Henry, and carried:-

101. “That the petition be referred to the Town Clerk for consideration and action as appropriate.”

Councillor Farmer presented a petition with 16 signatures in the following terms:-

Parking on Green petition. Residents of Monmouth Drive.

Moved by Councillor Farmer, seconded by Councillor Henry, and carried:-

102. “That the petition be referred to the Town Clerk for consideration and action as appropriate.”
PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. J. Browne presented a petition with 85 signatures in the following terms:-

Campaign against vandalism by Northfields Residents against houses and garages on the Woodgreen Private Housing Estate.

Moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor, and carried:-

103. “That the petition be referred to the Town Clerk for consideration and action as appropriate.”

Mr. David Brazier presented a petition with 152 signatures in the following terms:-

We, the undersigned, believe that the increasing numbers of homeless people in Leicester require more appropriate facilities to meet their needs. We support the creation of a new Nightshelter, Day Centre and Primary Health Care Centre in the former Registry Offices in Pocklingtons Walk.

Moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor, and carried:-

104. “That the petition be referred to the Town Clerk for consideration and action as appropriate.”

Mr. M.J. Williams presented a petition with 68 signatures in the following terms:-

We, the undersigned, residents within the area of Leicester City, feel that children who live within the city, but have chosen a County school as their choice, are being unfairly discriminated against for getting help with their transportation.

Many children from the age of ten to the age of sixteen are asked to either catch two buses into town, which is a distance of approximately 10 miles journey to and from school each day, or to find someone to whom they can rely upon to share a lift. Neither of these options is at all suitable as parents are either working, disabled or on government benefit or do not wish to take on the responsibility of another person’s child should anything happen. Many children are finding it tiring and are therefore, finding it difficult to concentrate on the early lessons.

We, therefore, ask this Leicester City Council to support this petition and carry out relevant requirements that are necessary in order to resolving this problem. For example, subsidising a bus for these children so that they get to and from school safely and are not too tired to concentrate on their education.

Both central and local government are encouraging more people to use local transport in order to reduce the levels of pollution, and by subsidising a bus would also help reduce the levels of pollution.

Moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor, and carried:-

105. “That the petition be referred to the Town Clerk for consideration and action as appropriate.”

Mr. M.J. Williams presented a petition with 60 signatures in the following terms:-

We, the undersigned parents, would not like to see the School Crossing Patrol
relocated to the pedestrian gate located near the Health Centre, as it is encouraging more children to cross at a busy car park, which is dangerous.

We, therefore, ask this Leicester City Council to support this petition and allow the officer concerned to continue to carry out their duties as School Crossing Patrol Officer from the corner of Roborough Green and Thurncourt Road to which they have been stationed to for several years now.

Moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor, and carried:-

106. “That the petition be referred to the Town Clerk for consideration and action as appropriate.”

Mr. M.J. Williams presented a petition with 32 signatures in the following terms:-

We, the undersigned residents of Thurnby Lodge or residents within the area of Leicester City would like to see some kind of traffic calming on Bowhill Grove, Thurnby Lodge, Leicester.

With the influx of heavy traffic, there is the fear of safety for local children, as on many occasions, several vehicles have come rearing down Bowhill at quite a high speed.

We, therefore, ask this Leicester City Council to support this petition and carry out the relevant requirements that are necessary to resolving this problem.

Moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor, and carried:-

107. “That the petition be referred to the Town Clerk for consideration and action as appropriate.”

QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. J.W. Burrows asked why had the Labour Group betrayed Council Policy by not obliging developers to include what was known as ‘affordable housing’ in planning applications.

Councillor Kavia: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. I was not aware that Mr. Burrows had joined the Labour Group and is aware of what is happening in the Group. However, I must emphasise that the Labour Group has been supporting this policy for the last eight to ten years in terms of achieving affordable housing within this city. I am sure that Mr. Burrows may not be aware that there was a report presented to Cabinet. It has also been to Scrutiny, to Regeneration and Planning Scrutiny and Housing Scrutiny as well. I will let you have a copy, it is a very comprehensive copy. It tells you exactly what has been done by this Council and this Council has got committed to providing affordable housing in this city. Since 1999 it has provided 500 affordable houses within this city and its policy is to achieve some 30% of housing in this city to be affordable housing and, once you read this report, you will be aware of this, exactly what the policy is.

Mr. J.W. Burrows: Will Councillor Kavia please explain why the requirements included in the Council policy to include affordable housing has been deferred for
several months because, my Lord Mayor, it seems to be that the Labour Group is protecting private profits instead of providing people’s housing in Leicester?

Councillor Kavia: The policy has never been deferred. The decision that was deferred was specifically to do with the regeneration area. Leicester Regeneration Company made a request to the Council that they would wish that a certain part of the regeneration area should be exempt on a temporary basis only for six months from affordable housing to be provided there. If I may emphasise that the affordable housing in summary, therefore, it is not mandatory by this Council to provide but this Council has committed itself to provide 30% of housing to be affordable in this city.

Mr. M.J. Williams said that since the doctor’s surgery was built four years ago on Thurncourt Road, Thurnby Lodge, Leicester, an extra pathway was provided for older pupils to gain entrance to Willowbrook School. With no proper crossing proposed and no traffic calming outside the surgery car park. Was it the responsibility of this City Council’s Health and Safety Department to consider children’s safety at the very beginning before allowing such a facility to go ahead.

Councillor Bhatti: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. The City Council share the same concerns about child safety around schools and adopted a ten year strategy in January 2001 to introduce safer routes to all schools in the city by 2011. In the ten year strategy, Willowbrook School is programmed for action in 2004/2005 as part of the Humberstone, Thurncourt and Hamilton project.

Officers from the Traffic Group have already discussed with Willowbrook Primary Health and Safety Group improvements that can be made outside the school to reduce road danger. The intention is to work with the Willowbrook Primary School to produce a school travel plan.

I am sure that Mr. Williams is aware of the congestion that occurs on Roborough Green, particularly in the afternoon when parents park to pick up the children. It is for this reason that the developers of the Health Centre agreed to put in the footpath to Thurncourt Road to reduce the number of children using the Roborough Road to get to and from school. It is proposed to traffic calm Thurncourt Road as part of the Humberstone, Thurncourt and Hamilton safer routes project.

Mr. M.J. Williams: I could not understand it what Councillor said there. There are two gateways to the school that have been made now and this gateway on Thurncourt Road, which is causing a lot of traffic chaos and cause a lot of division between parents, can you tell me if you are going to propose to do anything outside that school gate that has been put there now, is there any level crossing being proposed.

Councillor Bhatti: This is the local centre which you are very much aware, I am not. I think the best way is for us to have a site visit along with officers and you and assess the situation and then we can discuss the best way forward.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Garrity said recently a small child sustained a noise bleed and cuts to the face when colliding with a wheelie bin, obstructing the pavement on Cecilia Road. Could the Cabinet Member for Arts, Leisure and Environment advise her to whom my constituent direct a letter requesting compensation for injuries.
Councillor Holden: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. Could I advise Councillor Garrity to inform her constituent that he or she should write to the Council giving as much information as possible about the accident and just to advise here that the address to write to is the Risk Management Section, Resources, Access and Diversity, Leicester City Council, New Walk Centre, Leicester LE1 6ZG, and I will give Councillor Garrity a copy of that address later, my Lord Mayor.

Councillor Blackmore asked would the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning confirm the destination of the 30,000 books put into storage at the time of the central library refurbishment last year.

Councillor Roberts: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. It is not uncommon for any library to have a reserve stock of books which they lend to the public through their catalogue. However, the 30,000 books referred to by Councillor Blackmore were temporarily removed at the time of the central library refurbishment in 2001. Following this they were back on to the main lending and reference stock.

Councillor Blackmore: As you know, there have been repeated suggestions that, instead of disposing of books by sale in the normal way or even recycling them, the City Council has taken some books to the incinerator and burnt them. It is very, very important and I ask you the question, have you at any time, has the Council, burnt books rather than recycle them at any time and, if they have, how many and why?

Councillor Roberts: I think the last person to burn books was Hitler. Obviously, there are books that become surplus to requirements each year. There is an ongoing process of establishing whether a book needs to be replaced or updated. When that occurs, those surplus books are initially allocated to other libraries. If they do not want them, secondly they are put on offer for sale to the public. Those books that are in an extremely poor condition and cannot be redistributed in this manner are disposed of and they are disposed of by pulping so that they can be recycled and used back in books again.

Councillor Coles asked could the Leader of the Council please inform Council when the Emergency Committee last met and when it was next scheduled to meet.

Councillor Willmott: I thank Councillor Coles for his question, my Lord Mayor. Thankfully the Emergency Committee has not had cause to meet in recent times. Consideration was given to calling the Committee during the recent Belgrave Gas crisis and supply disruption but the Council’s response using the arrangements that are in place in the Council, linked to the briefing of key Members, including Ward Members, was appropriate for the occasion and, again, my congratulations I would like to add to all the staff and all the people in the community who came together to work in what was clearly an important and significant disruption to local people. I can assure Councillor Coles that the Emergency Committee will be called if there is an emergency. Thank you, my Lord Mayor.

Councillor Coles: Thank you, my Lord Mayor, I am grateful for that reply but I am a little disappointed that it does not hit the target that I am aiming for. I do not think this is a frivolous particular piece of Council work, my Lord Mayor. I would like a little bit of attention. With a war imminent, have we given any consideration to the safety of buildings that we do our work in and do I and so does the Leader do a lot of work on the eighth floor of B Block and also, there is the danger of the possibility of a biological attack? Lord Mayor, when I was young, I was able to remember the
bombs dropped on the city. I remember buildings falling down and in flames. I think it could be a good idea for the Emergency Committee to meet and probably look at what kind of civil defence arrangements they have got in the event like that. Could that happen please? Could we have an Emergency Committee?

Councillor Willmott: I think, in my view, that it would be extremely unfortunately and untimely for any war to happen. Certainly, as Councillor Coles is alluding to a potential invasion of Iraq, I think such a war is not necessary or called for at this time. Also it could hardly be described as an emergency given the discussions have been taking place for the last six months to a year. In that sense, in my view, it does not qualify as an emergency, but I can assure Councillor Coles, as I know I have written to Councillor Blackmore on this subject, that there are plans in place to protect and safeguard the people who work for the City Council at all times, not just the buildings, as Councillor Coles has pointed out, but actually the people in the buildings and I can assure him that I am confident in those procedures and know the awareness of our officers to bring to attention of Members anything which might mean that we need to seek a meeting of the Emergency Committee but there is no reason at this present time, in my view, to do so. Thank you, my Lord Mayor. You can have a briefing.

Councillor Mugglestone asked how many Council properties within the remit of the Housing Department had been allocated to people arriving from outside the city. In replying please categorise places of applicants' origin and basis of allocation, i.e. homeless, job relocation, asylum seekers, EEC applicants.

Councillor Draycott: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to thank Councillor Mugglestone for his question because it gives me an opportunity to thank the Homeless Service which has, this week, received national recognition from the Audit Commission, and if you want a bit of light reading, there are some excellent comments in here and I would particularly like to refer to the quote from the publication where it says “In Leicester, arrangements are made in advance for interpreters to be present at interviews. In addition a number of front line staff can speak community languages to help people coming into the Housing Options Centre.”

The report follows on, as I am sure Councillor Mugglestone knows, from the Housing Inspectors assessment of the Homeless Service in Leicester as being two star with excellent prospects of being three star when they return later this year. Yesterday I attended an interview in London with Beacon assessors and senior housing staff to demonstrate why Leicester should be Beacon Council for homelessness. This would mean we could continue to provide examples of good practice for other Councils to follow.

In reply directly to Councillor Mugglestone’s question, some information is provided in the Annual Report to Housing Scrutiny May 2002. It does not, though, identify the number of lettings to people from outside of Leicester. All lettings to Council housing are made through the Housing Register. Applications to the Housing Register record, amongst other things, do present address and nationality. Such records are not held on the computer and are kept on the files which are held at the Local Housing Office where the applicant has been rehoused. Therefore it would be a manual operations that would require considerable work to provide such information so, therefore, at this present time, Lord Mayor, I am not able to provide the information that has been requested.

Councillor Mugglestone: Would Councillor Draycott in that case, or through the
officers, arrange for me to have what information there is because Councillor Draycott said not all of the information is available on the computer? If she will let me have what information there is available, I would be most grateful.

Councillor Draycott: I will do that in writing, Lord Mayor.

Councillor Mrs. Chambers asked did the Cabinet Member for Housing support the planning application to turn the Registry Office and associated offices of numbers one to nine Pocklington’s Walk to a night shelter as per planning application 200111994.

Councillor Draycott: Thank you, Lord Mayor, and I thank Councillor Chambers for the question as it gives me the only opportunity I have had so far in public to talk about this particular matter. In brief, I support the application very much. Council will be aware that we agreed the Homelessness Strategy back in 1999 that included the recommendation that we set up a multi-disciplinary centre. Since then an extensive search has been carried out and, indeed, following the Planning DC Committee meeting, other sites have been investigated that were suggested at that particular meeting and through representation that has been made to the Council. I believe that the right building has been chosen.

We also have approximately three quarters of a million pounds on the table from the Government Office regarding this particular matter. We have tried to accommodate every concern that has been voiced on the matter such as agreeing to regular Management Group meetings where local people, businesses, etc. could meet with staff from the Housing Department on a regular basis were there any concerns. We have also, indeed, looked at whether a CCTV camera could be installed on that particular street and we have given information to the Planning Department that that is possible and we are also working with English Heritage on the matter regarding the Grade II listed building and, indeed, we have carried out an environmental impact study taking things into account and I would make the point that the existing night shelter is a Grade II building, it has been looked after extremely well, staff are well used to dealing with that kind of environment and, indeed, so are the users of any facility. The matter goes back to Planning D.C. next week and it is a matter for them to decide but, finally, Lord Mayor, all I would say is that we do not have a vast choice of buildings or, indeed, areas to choose from and the report that goes to Planning next week shows that, in fact, we have very few areas of the city centre to choose from, as a good number of them are already committed to regeneration areas or to other matters and finally, just to say that, yes, I do support the application.

Councillor Mrs. Chambers asked did the Lead Member for Finance and Resources believe that the way to encourage tourism and visitors to Leicester was to charge them a minimum, repeat minimum, of 25 pence per minute for the privilege of enquiring by phone to our tourism line regarding the wonders of our city.

Councillor Patel: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor, the decision to make changes to Leicester Promotions’ tourism telephone service was taken primarily in response to customer demand for a service to be available outside normal working hours. The change they made has allowed a telephone response service to be available between 8 o’clock in the morning and 10 o’clock at night, seven days a week, 365 days a year. The previous service was restricted to the hours when Leicester Promotions’ switchboard was open, that is, normal working hours.

Obviously that improvement in the availability of the service has come at a price
and the introduction of a small charge to cover these costs was a reasonable way of dealing with this. That charge is a flat charge of 25p per minute, which does not vary. There has been no adverse customer reaction to the change and the number of enquiries being dealt with has steadily grown. Furthermore, the average length of calls has fallen since the service was introduced and as the operatives become more familiar with the Leicester product.

Since making the switch, the quality of the service has also improved, the call centre is now operating at over 95% reliability.

Leicester Promotions continues to monitor the quality of responses being made by the call centre but its view, based on the first eight months or so of the new service, is that the change has been successful. Thank you, my Lord Mayor.

**Councillor Farmer** asked could the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation provide with a timetable of events for the Pork Pie Island traffic calming proposals.

**Councillor Bhatti**: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. It is not possible to provide such a timetable in advance of a number of decisions which have yet to be taken by Cabinet. Cabinet has to decide which scheme should proceed first and, if so, in what form, following the submission of the objections to the draft proposals, including a petition from you, Councillor Farmer and the Council’s consultants have been considering the various objections and their effectiveness on the scheme as well. I am expecting a report to the Cabinet some time in the summer.

**Councillor Farmer**: Thank you, Councillor Bhatti. There has been some interesting links coming from your Department recently regarding policy on transportation that suggest that you are playing political games with this project, you are messing around with people’s lives. The question is would you agree you and your officers have failed to take a decent level of action on this issue?

**Councillor Bhatti**: What has happened, let me read the petition that Councillor Farmer has submitted to us:-

“We, the undersigned, express our serious concern about the effects of the proposed alterations to the Pork Pie Library island. In particular to the proposed traffic arrangements for Glenhills Boulevard south side and seek redesign with consultations with the residents. The no right turn for cars at Pasley Road will cause serious problems for local people.

We are also concerned about the arrangements for pedestrians in the proposals, in particular at the junction of Wigston Lane and Glenhills Way/Boulevard.”

Now these are the objections we have taken on and the request to the consultants, go back and see what effect it will have on the Pork Pie Island and the roundabout. So we wanted to turn it into a hamburger island, you objected to that and you did not let it happen. The question is here, whatever the information, the information you have received is, that is not our policy, nothing has been decided. We will be coming back before this Council some time, certainly in a few weeks time to consider the allocation of £6.5 million that is going to be allocated by the Government for these schemes.

**Councillor Farmer** asked could the Cabinet Member for Housing tell him if the areas that the local neighbourhood housing offices were going to cover were going
to be changed to be coterminous with the new ward boundaries.

**Councillor Draycott:** Thank you, Lord Mayor. The Neighbourhood Housing Offices have been in place for a considerable number of years and there are absolutely no plans to change that, Lord Mayor. Thank you.

**Councillor Farmer:** Would Councillor Draycott agree that it would be a ridiculous situation where a Councillor for the new Ward boundaries may have to go to three or four Housing Office Managers or Housing Office staff to deal with constituents’ problems? The level of meetings they would have would be ridiculous.

**Councillor Draycott:** Thank you, Lord Mayor. I actually live in that kind of situation. I deal with two local Housing Offices and I know that there are other Members in this Council Chamber who do not just have the luxury of dealing with one Housing Office, they deal with two or three, Lord Mayor. That arrangement, as I said, has been in place across the whole of the city for a number of years. As I say, there are no proposals to change them.

**Councillor Farmer** asked could the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning tell him what the total cost over the last two years and the projected cost of office/staff transfers and office upgrades by the Life Long Learning & Community Development Team had been and was projected to be.

**Councillor Roberts:** Thank you, Lord Mayor. As I advised Councillor Farmer six months ago at the Council on 26 September, approximately £600 was spent in the financial year 2001/2002 on moving Lifelong Learning offices. This involved removing one office and associated electrical works to enable more staff to be accommodated. This is the only direct cost attributable directly to the Lifelong Learning Division.

**Councillor Farmer:** Can you tell me what the total cost of moving senior learning managers to their local areas, the cost of moving Connections staff from the Department to the Connections Centre, the cost of moving people from the Youth Voice Unit to the International Youth House, who were all member of that team that I have just asked you about, what is the total costs of that?

**Councillor Roberts:** I am afraid I am unable to give you that information this evening. I will investigate that information and get back to you.

**Councillor Farmer** said a number of constituents have contacted to raise their concerns about the Council’s window replacement programme. One particular constituent who lived in a home with metal window frames has contacted him. This particular type of window was insecure and they let in a lot of the outside air. Please could the Cabinet Member for Housing tell him why this type of window had not been made a priority.

**Councillor Draycott:** Thank you, Lord Mayor. As all Members of this Council Chamber know, the programme for windows replacement is determined each year on a worst first basis. Although some metal framed windows will be replaced next year, many wooden frame windows will be replaced as well. It is not possible to make a generalisation that metal framed windows are in a worse condition than wooden framed windows. In fact, wooden windows are more likely to deteriorate quickly, being unpainted as opposed to the metal ones.

We have been operating this policy of priority window replacement now for four
years and we have replaced windows in over eight and a half thousand properties, which is about one third of our stock. Council Members will know that in the current financial year’s programme we agreed almost £2 million to bring in automised machinery for the window factory. This is now in place and will then soon be operational and will increase the production by approximately 100%.

The amount we will spend in each area will be reported to the Cabinet in February, which is the normal process, and the streets which will be in the programme for 2003/4 will also be reported to Community Associations at their March/April meetings. Again, which is the normal process.

**Councillor Farmer**: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. Could I ask that the Cabinet Member for Housing looks at the situation regarding metal windows because if you go and look at them yourself, you will see that they are a lot more draughty and a lot more insecure than any other wooden windows in the city?

**Councillor Draycott**: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Quite clearly we have recognised there is a problem with the windows in our Council properties which is why we have gone to these measures to replace them all. I know that everybody would like their windows done yesterday, we still have 25,000 properties to do. As I said, we have got a third done already. The new window machinery that is in place will increase things considerably and it is a case for all of us, including myself, to wait our turn.

**Councillor Farmer** said a constituent, a Council tenant, had a porch that was affected by condensation and a mould problem has contacted him. His constituent was an elderly lady who suffers asthma and the state of her porch had worsened her condition. The Saffron Housing Depot had gone through the procedures under the Council’s housing policy to try and do something about this porch. It was still in a poor state. Can the Cabinet Member for Housing please tell him what she proposed to do about his constituent’s porch and what was going to happen with people’s porches that were in a similar condition.

**Councillor Draycott**: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am concerned to hear about this particular question because I do not think there is any repair that cannot be sorted out regarding a porch and, if Councillor Farmer would like to let me have the details, Lord Mayor, I would be pleased to chase up and find out why this matter has not been resolved.

**Councillor Farmer**: Can the Cabinet Member for Housing confirm that it will not until roughly 2007 before porches on bungalows will be replaced in Council bungalows?

**Councillor Draycott**: Yes, Lord Mayor, I think there are actually two questions there because I understood Councillor Farmer was asking about a repair. If it is a straightforward repair then that can be carried out. If Councillor Farmer is asking what I now believe for a new upvc porch, then that work will follow after the window problem has been completed. There is no reason though if, for example, the door in the porch or a panel is beyond repair, that such a upvc panel or door would be replaced, but the whole thing itself, that is a very different programme and that is not for a little while. Lord Mayor.

**Councillor Farmer** asked could the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration tell how the Council decided which wards should be put forward to bid for money from the European Union’s Objective Two Fund,
Councillor Kavia: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. I must thank Councillor Farmer for asking this question. It is very good news for this city that recently, on 23 January, there was an article in the Mercury informing citizens of this city that £7 million has been approved this year for this fund. However, I am very pleased to inform Councillor Farmer that the European Commission eligibility criteria and Urban Strand under which the funding is considered and the Wards which are considered are Wards which are the most deprived within this city and these ten Wards approximately cover a population of 100,000 people and I can give an example of Wards such as Wycliffe, Spinney Hill and North Braunstone, which rank first, third and twelfth within the deprived areas within the East Midlands region and that is how it has been judged for Objection 2 fund.

Councillor Farmer: Eyres Monsell has once missed out again on outside funding. It missed out on SRB and continues to miss out on other funds that have been made available from outside. You say about deprived Wards but there is evidence to suggest that both Saffron and Eyres Monsell are amongst the most deprived Wards in the city but they are not on this plan. They have not been put forward as part of this bid. Eyres Monsell has missed out time and time again. Therefore my supplementary is, can I ask that you look to include Eyres Monsell and Saffron in future bids to the European Union funds?

Councillor Kavia: My Lord Mayor, the most important thing is that we do not set this criteria, this criteria is set by the European Commission and the deprivation list is sent to us by Central Government. So the Wards which fitted the criteria have been included in this and if this Ward was subject to this particular condition, it would have been taken on, but unfortunately it does not fit that criteria.

Councillor Farmer said that in light of recent petitions against mobile phone masts across the City, could the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration tell him what the Council’s policy on mobile phone masts was.

Councillor Kavia: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. Once again, I must emphasise that Councillor Farmer must be aware that there is a replacement of the Leicester Local Plan and this policy is emphasised in paragraphs 9.75 an 9.76 and this Local Plan is allocated in all the Group Rooms.

Councillor Farmer: Can I ask that a review be undertaken of the City Council’s policy on mobile phone masts around planning applications?

Councillor Kavia: My Lord Mayor, it is very clear that if Councillor Farmer wants to, this Local Plan has been allocated in each Group Room and if he emphasise, I am telling him it is written in paragraph 9.75 of that Local Plan and 9.76, and if he makes a little more effort, he would have the comprehension, it is several pages and I cannot read it in this Council to save the time of the Council. I am telling you, this is written in paragraph 9.75 and 9.76, so if you take the courtesy of reading those, you will know the policy

Councillor Platts asked would the Cabinet Lead for Finance and Resources disclose any enquiries made by breweries to build a public house on the Hamilton District Centre and what progress had been made with these.

Councillor Patel: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. My Lord Mayor, the City Council does not own any land at Hamilton District Centre which is suitable for the development of a public house. Other sites which may have the potential to be developed for a public house at the District Centre are owned by Tesco. The agent
acting for Tesco at the District Centre has confirmed that a site was marketed in 2002 and several enquiries from public house providers were received. However, at present, the site is withdrawn from the market and the agent has no further instruction from Tesco to market any of these sites in the immediate future.

**Councillor Platts**: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. Having spoken to a brewery about the siting of a public house in Hamilton, they have given me grave concerns about its viability basically due to its location and through traffic. Will the Council consider amending the Local Plan to site the pub outside of the Centre but in Hamilton if reasonable grounds were given and agreed with and also the local community supported it?

**Councillor Patel**: Thank you, my Lord Mayor, I would refer that to my colleague on the left.

**Councillor Allen** said in respect of the Planning Application for the proposed Night Shelter in Pocklington’s Walk (application no. 20011994), would the Cabinet Lead for Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal explain, of the options considered for the location of the Night Shelter, why the new build on Conduit Street option was rejected and, in particular, which specific criteria did this proposal not meet.

**Councillor Draycott**: Thank you, Lord Mayor. The site on Conduit Street is identified by the Leicester Regeneration Company Masterplan as being a possible route for a new road. Had that not been the case, it may well have been an interesting site to have looked at but, on this basis, planning officers advised they would be unable to support the proposed use of that site.

**Councillor Allen**: May I ask the supplementary quite briefly. Will we apply the same sort of criteria to the proposed site, Pocklington’s Walk, to all the others we have refused?

**Councillor Draycott**: I believe the answer would be yes but I expect that planning applications will be determined on planning matters related to this particular site. Pocklington’s Walk, rather than the possibility of alternatives, Lord Mayor.

**REPORTS OF CABINET**

**CORPORATE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2003/04 TO 2004/05**

(Decision reserved to Council)

At its meeting on 27 January, the Cabinet received a report recommending an update of the corporate capital programme for the period 2002/03 to 2004/05 and the Council’s Capital Strategy.

A copy of the report is attached.

The recommendations of the Cabinet, as reported to Council, are appended.

The City Council is asked to approve proposals in relation to the Capital Programme 2002/03 to 2004/05.

Moved by Councillor Patel, seconded by Councillor Willmott, and carried:-

108. “That the Council approves the updating of the ‘corporate’ capital
programme for the period 2002/03 to 2004/05, as recommended by Cabinet at their meeting on 27 January 2003”.

A MOTION OF REFERRAL BACK

Moved by Councillor Blackmore, seconded by Councillor Hunt:-

“That the Report on the Corporate Capital Programme 2003/04 to 2004/05, be referred back to Cabinet for further consideration.”

The Lord Mayor put the Motion of Referral Back to the vote and declared it lost, 13 vote for and 26 votes against.

COUNCIL TAX - TAXBASE
(Decision reserved to Council)

At its meeting on 27 January, the Cabinet received a report proposing a taxbase for the purposes of calculating the Council tax.

A copy of the report is attached.

The recommendations of the Cabinet, as reported to Council, are appended.

The City Council is asked to approve a taxbase for the purpose of calculating the Council tax for 2003/04.

Moved by Councillor Patel, seconded by Councillor Willmott, and carried:-

109. “That the Council agrees a Taxbase for 2003/04 of 72,227 properties expressed as the equivalent number of ‘Ban D’ properties.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2002/03 AND 2003/04
(Decision reserved to Council)

At its meeting on 27 January, the Cabinet received a report reviewing the current year’s Housing Capital Programme and recommending a programme for 2003/04.

A copy of the report is attached.

The recommendations of the Cabinet, as reported to Council, are appended.

The City Council is asked to approve a revised Housing Capital Programme for 2002/03 and a Housing Capital Programme for 2003/04.

Moved by Councillor Draycott, seconded by Councillor Getliffe, and carried:-

110. “That the Council approve a revised Housing Capital Programme for 2002/03 and a Housing Capital Programme for 2003/04, as recommended by Cabinet at their meeting on 27 January 2003.”

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2003/04
(Decision reserved to Council)

At its meeting on 27 January, the Cabinet received a report summarising the financial position of the Housing Revenue Account for 2002/03 and 2003/04 and setting out the options for deciding the 2003/04 rent level.

A copy of the report is attached.

The recommendations of the Cabinet, as reported to Council, are appended.

The City Council is asked to approve the level of rents and miscellaneous charges to be applied in 2003/04.

Moved by Councillor Draycott, seconded by Councillor Getliffe, and carried:-

111. “That the Council approves the level of Housing rents to be applied in 2003/04 and the revised level of miscellaneous payment and charges to be applied in 2003/04, as recommended by Cabinet at their meeting on 27 January 2003.”

ANNUAL LIBRARY PLAN
(Decision reserved to Council)

At its meeting on 27 January, the Cabinet received a report proposing an Annual Library Plan for 2002.

A copy of the report is attached.

The full Library Plan has previously been circulated to all Members of the Council. A copy is also in the Members’ Library.

The recommendations of the Cabinet, as reported to Council, are appended.

The City Council is asked to approve the Annual Library Plan, as recommended by Cabinet.

Moved by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Holden, and carried:-

112. “That the Council approve the Annual Library Plan 2002, as recommended by Cabinet at their meeting on 27 January 2003.”

ANTI SOCIAL USE OF FIREWORKS
(Decision reserved to Cabinet)

At its meeting on 27 January, the Cabinet will receive a report informing them of the outcome of the recent publicity campaign to raise awareness in relation to problems associated with the antisocial use of fireworks. The report also seeks support for the introduction of new legislative controls over the sale and use of fireworks.

A copy of the report is attached.

The decisions of the Cabinet, as reported to Council, are appended.

The City Council is asked to endorse the work undertaken in the course of the 2002
“Bang” campaign and support the decisions of Cabinet.

Moved by Councillor Holden, seconded by Councillor Draycott, and carried:-

113. “That the Council endorse the work undertaken in the course of the 2002 ‘Bang’ Campaign and support the decisions taken by Cabinet at their meeting on 27 January 2003 and urge that the Director of Environment, Regeneration and Development also refer the issue to the Local Government Association for their active consideration.

REPORTS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (INCLUDING ACHIEVEMENTS)

The Council at its meeting on 30 May 2002, agreed the following:-

“This Council asks that, during the course of the current municipal year, the Chair of each Scrutiny Committee makes a short presentation through a report to full Council, of no more than five minutes duration, outlining the achievements of their Committee during the first two years of the new Council Cabinet and Scrutiny system.”

Attached are the report from the Chairs of the following Scrutiny Committees:-

Arts, Leisure and Environment
Housing
Social Services and Personal Health

The City Council is asked to note the reports.

Moved by Councillor Bunce, seconded by Councillor Sood, and carried:-

114. “That the Council note the report on the work and achievements of the Arts, Leisure and Environment Scrutiny Committee.”

Moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Allen, and carried:-

115. “That the Council note the work undertaken by the Housing Scrutiny Committee since its inception and the way it has played a part in managing and influencing Council policy over the past two years.”

Moved by Councillor Gajjar, seconded by Councillor Coles, and carried:-

116. “That the Council note the report of the Social Services and Personal Health Scrutiny Committee on its achievements to date.”

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk submitted a Report to inform Council of the outcome of the Periodic Electoral Review of Leicester City and to seek Council approval to the Polling Districts within these new Wards.

Moved by Councillor Willmott, seconded by Councillor Patel, and carried:-

117. “That the Council note the outcome of the Periodic Electoral Review of Leicester City as contained within the Statutory Order and associated maps and approve the Polling Districts within these new Wards as detailed in each
of the Ward maps which are also displayed for Members in the Tea Room."

**COMMITTEES**

- None -

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

- None -

**ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

- None -

The Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.41 p.m