



Leicester  
City Council

## MINUTE EXTRACT

### Minutes of the Meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Held: THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2009 at 5.30pm

#### PRESENT

Councillor Grant (Chair)  
Councillor Bhatti (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Glover  
Councillor Joshi  
Councillor Potter

Councillor Hall  
Councillor Newcombe  
Councillor Senior

#### Also In Attendance

Councillor Osman

Councillor Westley  
Jaskaran Bhimber  
Dilone Arilal  
Councillor Naylor

Cabinet Lead for Frontline  
Services, Improvement and  
Neighbourhoods  
Cabinet Lead for Housing  
Rushey Mead School  
City of Leicester School

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#### **94. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Suleman.

#### **95. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have in the business on the agenda and/or declare if Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

Councillor Potter declared personal interests in Item 7, "Joint Regeneration and Transport and Culture and leisure task Groups – Final report- the Future of Leicester Market," as she was Chair of the Markets Forum; Item 9, "Affordable

Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan 2008-2013,” as she and family members were Council tenants; Item 10, “Disabled Facilities Grants: Introduction of Legal Charges,” as a relative had been in receipt of such a grant. For the avoidance of doubt she also stated, in respect of Item 14, “Disposal of Residential Land to Housing associations,” that, although she lived in one of the wards mentioned, she had an open mind on the matter.

Councillor Joshi declared a personal interest in Item 9, “Affordable Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan 2008-2013,” as a family member was a Council tenant. For the avoidance of doubt he also stated, in respect of Item 14, “Disposal of Residential Land to Housing associations,” that, although he lived in one of the wards mentioned, he had an open mind on the matter.

Councillor Glover declared a personal interest in Item 9, “Affordable Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan 2008-2013,” as family members were Council tenants. Following advice from the Legal Advisor, she also declared a predetermined view on item 14, “Disposal of Residential Land to Housing associations,” and undertook to leave the room during its discussion.

Councillor Senior declared a predetermined view on item 14, “Disposal of Residential Land to Housing associations,” as she had previously stated that she welcomed regeneration of one of the sites and undertook to leave the room during its discussion.

### **103. DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS: INTRODUCTION OF LEGAL CHARGES**

The Director, Housing Strategy and Options, submitted a report that sought to respond to a change to a power that allowed Councils to recover grant of the property was sold within ten years of a grant being paid. The Cabinet Lead for Housing, Councillor Westley, was also present to answer Members’ questions.

Members asked if work had been done on the potential impact on residents and the possibility that this may discourage some from accepting necessary adaptations. It was reported that it was too early to have evidence of such an effect, but it would be monitored. Protections were in place, such as an appeals process involving the Leader and Cabinet Lead. At the start of the application process, a Home Improvement Officer would work with the person and their family. They would be made fully aware of any implications and support available. If a person went into residential care, their circumstances would be considered. The charges would apply to new applications only, and would be introduced shortly after a decision by Cabinet.

**RESOLVED:**

that the report be noted and the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be forwarded to Cabinet.