



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CABINET

Held: MONDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2006 at 5.00pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor R Blackmore - Chair
Councillor Scuplak - Vice-Chair

Councillor Coley
Councillor Grant
Councillor Gill
Councillor Mugglestone

Councillor Ramsdale
Councillor Sandringham
Councillor Smith
Councillor Suleman

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109. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

110. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Act applied to them.

No declarations were made.

111. CHAIR'S STATEMENT

The Chair stated that the Council had won a Pro Con award for its design and build of the Brite Centre. Members expressed their congratulations and thanks to all involved.

112. DEPARTMENTAL STRUCTURE

Councillor Blackmore submitted a report that proposed the merger of the Adult and Community Services and Housing Departments, in the light of current and prospective opportunities and pressures affecting the delivery of a number of Council services. It was noted that the issue had been considered at the meeting on 30 October 2006 (minute no. 106 refers) and that further options had been requested.

The report outlined three options open to the Council to ensure there was no

hiatus and uncertainty in the strategic management of services following the resignation of the Corporate Director of Adult and Community Services. Details of advantages and disadvantages of each option were given. The options included recruitment to the vacant Corporate Director post, interim management of the Adult and Community Services department pending a decision next year and the merger of Adult and Community Services and Housing Departments.

The Leader stated that external recruitment to the vacant Corporate Director post would cost around £35,000. He suggested that against this the choosing of the merger option would give a statement of confidence in internal management and ensure continuity and clear authority for the new Corporate Director post to review and reshape services.

It was suggested that a deputy to the new corporate director post would be needed with the relevant social care qualifications. In response it was noted that consideration of these matters fell under the remit of the Council's Employees (Appointments) Committee but that the concerns expressed would be passed to that Committee.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Department of Housing and the Department of Adult and Community Services be merged into an Adult and Housing Department;
2. That there be a post of Corporate Director to replace the Corporate Director posts of the two former Departments, with those Departments' seven Service Directors reporting to that post in the first instance;
3. That the new Corporate Director in full consultation with staff, stakeholders and Cabinet link Members and in accordance with the Council's procedures, review the service and undertake any necessary organisational changes needed in consequence of this decision; and
4. That under the provisions of Cabinet Procedure Rule 12d no call in of the decision be allowed in view of the need to ensure continuity and reduce uncertainty in services.

113. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 5.43pm.

