



Leicester
City Council

EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: THURSDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2006 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Draycott- Chair

Councillor Allen
Councillor Joshi
Councillor Tessier
(for Cllr Metcalfe)

Councillor Dempster
Councillor Panchbhaya

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67. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Draycott be elected as Chair for the meeting.

68. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Keeling and George Narraway.

69. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Members declared the following personal and prejudicial interests in the agenda:

Councillor Draycott father-in-law is tenant of a Council owned property
Councillor Joshi sister is tenant of a Council owned property

The prejudicial interests did not apply under the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct, Paragraph 10 (d), and therefore the Members remained in the meeting.

73. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

The Corporate Director of Adult and Community Services submitted a report that presented a draft corporate policy on anti-social behaviour.

Members generally felt that there was an imbalance in the report regarding sympathy towards the victims and perpetrators. It was felt by Members that the risk assessment matrix should be amended to include further risks imposed on communities and tenants if an individual was not served an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO). There was concern that the report prioritised the ills of the perpetrator, and that this was not in the best interests of the citizens of Leicester.

One Member of the Committee asked for comments by officers to respond to recently published statistics that indicated that 55% of ABSOs served were not adhered to. In response, an officer from the Adults and Housing Department stated that she had examined a number of case studies, and concluded that the figures in Leicester did not reflect the national figure. She felt that one possible reason for this was that Leicester gave out relatively fewer ASBOs than other cities and therefore the ASBOs served in Leicester had some credibility.

A question was asked around the ways in which people were educated in order to prevent anti-social behaviour (ASB), and whether such educative materials were available in a range of languages that catered for all sections of the community. Members were informed that a vast range of literature was available that reflected the needs of the whole of the community.

One Member of the Committee was concerned that the report stated that Council tenants had been consulted prior to the report being drafted. It was felt that this had not been the case, and it was requested that this reference be removed from the report, and that tenants be given an opportunity to be consulted. The Service Director, Technical Services and Financial Support, suggested that a tenant consultation meeting be scheduled for 4 January 2007. This was supported by Members.

One Member of the Committee asked why there was no mention in the report of anti-social behaviour problems specifically encountered by Black Ethnic Minority groups. Members were informed that policy guidelines were formed with reference to every different community.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the committee feels that the risk assessment matrix needs to be better balanced to reflect the needs of victims and perpetrators
- (2) That the committee supports the setting up of a tenant consultation meeting on 4 January 2007.

