

## Extract from the Minutes of the Meeting of the ADULT & COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 10 JANUARY 2007 at 5.30pm

# <u>PRESENT:</u>

<u>Councillor Corrall - Chair</u> <u>Councillor Almey – Liberal Democrat Spokesperson</u> <u>Councillor Porter – Conservative Spokesperson</u>

Councillor Renold Councillor Thompson Councillor Waddington

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### 46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor A. Vincent who was unwell, and Councillor Nurse who was chairing another meeting.

### 47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No declarations were made at this time.

#### 51. ADULT LEARNING - UPDATE

The Service Director, Safer and Stronger Communities, reported that a Head of Service for Adult Learning had recently been appointed.

As part of the on-going review 62 staff had now been 'slotted in' to posts within the division, leaving 57 staff to be formally interviewed. The Project Board had drawn up a list of voluntary options for staff that would form the basis of a report for consideration by the Employees Committee.

A review was about to be commenced with the Learning and Skills Council, the aim of which was to determine that funding allocated by the Learning and Skills Council for 2006/07 had been spent effectively and for the Learning and Skills Council to inform the City Council of its allocation for 2007/08. It was stated that the City Council relied heavily on this funding, although it was anticipated that the new Head of Service would look to broaden the funding base.

The Committee were informed that a report setting out the staffing implications of the current review, together with enrolment figures for courses would be presented at the next meeting.

The Committee were informed that there were major concerns regarding the future provision of free courses for English language as a second language (ESOL), as the Government had moved forward and had reached the opinion that a number of people making use of the free courses were in a position to pay for these.

The Committee expressed serious concerns at the possible ending of free English language (ESOL) courses in Leicester as it was felt that it was essential for all sectors of the community to be able to speak a reasonable level of English and that the ability to learn English should therefore remain a high priority.

The Committee had no further comments to make.

**RESOLVED**:

that the information be noted and that the comments expressed regarding the future of free ESOL courses be fed back to Cabinet.

#### 59. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.15pm.