



Leicester  
City Council

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

Held: WEDNESDAY 28 MARCH 2007 AT 5.30PM

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Allen- Chair

Councillor Dempster

Councillor Garrity  
(for Cllr Keeling)

Councillor Draycott

Councillor Joshi

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**98. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Metcalfe and Councillor Panchbhaya.

**99. 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 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

**105. EXPANSION OF 2002 STREET DRINKING BAN AND POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS ON ANCHOR CENTRE DOVER STREET**

The Corporate Director of Adults and Housing submitted a report that informed Members about the services provided by the Anchor Centre and the potential implications on the project arising from the extension of the 2002 Street Drinking Ban.

The Service Director, Housing Accommodation and Tenancy Support, informed the meeting that the extension of the street drinking ban was introduced on 5 February 2007. She stated that the scheme's current managing agency had indicated that if the extension of the ban perimeter gave rise to the number and rate of additional workers, it would mean that 12

new referrals from the Police would require an additional project worker to support those clients. The cost of an additional worker was reported as being approximately £33,000. Members also heard that an application for funding had been submitted to the Safer Leicester Partnership.

The Service Director, Housing Accommodation and Tenancy Support also stated that the police's view was that the extension would not necessarily identify more street drinkers or lead to an increase in the number of referrals to the Anchor Centre. Members did not support the view taken by the Police, and were surprised by their comments. They felt that the police's measure of distributing 'aide memoire' cards to offenders was not an appropriate solution to the problem.

In response to comments from Members, the Service Director, Housing Accommodation and Tenancy Support stated that most offenders do respond to efforts made by the police, and some offenders were taken to the Dawn Centre. Overall, she felt that there had not been a sharp rise in the number of problems since the extension of the ban.

It was the view of the Committee that efforts should be made to identify the £33,000 required to fund an additional project worker to deal with additional referrals. It was felt that there would be enough referrals made to require the additional project worker, and that work should be carried out to support street drinkers, and those people who suffered with an alcohol problem. Furthermore, Members anticipated that the problem of street drinking would intensify during the coming summer months.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) that Cabinet be asked to review funding of the scheme and consider possible sources of funding for an additional project worker.
- (2) that any additional referrals to the Anchor Centre be monitored over a six-month period and the situation be reviewed in August 2007
- (3) that further consultation take place to consider issues of finance and capacity if there is an increase in the number of referrals from the police and if it is considered appropriate for the Anchor Centre to play an increased role in the extension of the street drinking ban.
- (4) that further investigation be conducted with regard to securing any additional funding resources, through Safer Leicester Partnership.

