



Leicester
City Council

Minute extract

Notes of the informal meeting of the
STANDARDS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 28 MARCH 2007 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Corrall Councillor Sood
Councillor O'Brien Councillor Tessier
Councillor Thomas

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53. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk reported that the Independent Member, Mrs Caroline Roberts had resigned. As there was no Independent Member present, the Committee was inquorate. The Committee was advised however that they could elect a Chair and conduct an informal meeting, any recommendations of which would need to be confirmed by the next quorate meeting.

54. ELECTION OF CHAIR

AGREED:

that Councillor Thomas be elected Chair for the meeting.

55. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Garrity.

56. 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.

58. ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report which introduced the draft Annual Audit and Inspection Letter for 2005/06. It was noted that the Council's

external auditor produced the Letter which summarised the work of the auditor in respect of the previous financial year and provided the auditor's view on the Council's performance, accounts, financial management arrangements and arrangements for delivering value for money. It was noted that the letter was not fully complete because the Council's 'direction of travel' (the auditor's assessment of how well the Council is improving), was presently subject to review.

Mr Trevor Croote, the Council's Audit Manager was present at the meeting to help answer Members' questions.

The Committee were overall satisfied with the content of the Letter but were disappointed at the Council's performance being downgraded to a 3 star authority. The Committee also were concerned that groups working in partnership with the Council were properly trained in financial and project management. The Committee noted that the direction of travel had not been determined but were encouraged by the reassurances of the Chief Finance Officer that the situation in Housing Benefits had improved.

AGREED:

that the above comments of Members be passed onto the Cabinet