



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Held: TUESDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2007 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Mugglestone – Chair

Councillor Bajaj
Councillor Follett
Councillor Naylor

Councillor Dawood
Councillor Mayat
Councillor Newcombe

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Mr Edward Hayes - Roman Catholic Diocese
Mr Mohammed Alauddin Al-Azad - Parent Governor (Primary / Special
Needs)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Blower – Task Group Leader, Children Schools and Young People
Councillor Hall – Task Group Leader, Community Cohesion and Safety

* * * * *

66. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Canon Taylor.

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests that 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.

Councillor Naylor declared a personal interest in item A, 'Report of the Children, Schools & Young People Scrutiny Task Group - A snapshot of Service Provision by the Youth Service' due to his involvement in youth work.

Councillor Follett declared a personal interest in item I 'Policy for Transfer of

Assets for Community Governance' due to his involvement with a community centre management committee which may seek self governance under the proposed change in policy.

Councillor Mayat declared a personal interest in item E 'Proposed Changes to the Consultative Structure for Local Authority Tenants' as a local authority tenant.

80. POLICY FOR TRANSFER OF ASSETS FOR COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

The Corporate Director of Resources submitted a report which gave details of a proposed addendum to the existing Framework for the Disposal of Property in response to current Government thinking and requests from community Groups. It was noted that the report was scheduled to be submitted to Cabinet for approval. It was stated that the Policy sought to provide a clear and consistent approach and that the Council had applied to join a pilot programme where Councils and community groups were supported to develop joint plans for asset transfer in line with the recommendations of the Government's Quirk efficiency review. The Council had put forward for pilot projects:

- Highfields Centre;
- Outdoor Pursuits Centre; and
- Cort Crescent Community Centre.

Before submission to this meeting consultation had taken place with Cabinet Briefing and was currently being undertaken with Voluntary Action Leicester.

Members expressed support for the proposals but suggested that the report did not convey a sense of enthusiasm for the possibilities of asset transfer and that the principle of 'best consideration' as applied was restrictive especially in relation to the treatment of the disposal of freehold. It was suggested that in some areas Councils had decided to allow the community to take over the freehold but covenants had been inserted to protect the asset for the community in the future by giving a Council a right of 'buy back'. In response it was stated that freehold was not ruled out but the intention was to seek to protect the Council's interests in unforeseen future circumstances. For example, whilst a covenant could be inserted it may not be in the Council's best interests at that point to buy back a building.

RESOLVED:

That the report to Cabinet be noted.