



Leicester
City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Held: THURSDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2008 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Mugglestone – Chair
Councillor Blower – Vice Chair

Councillor J. Blackmore
Councillor Hall
Councillor Russell

Councillor Corrall
Councillor Naylor
Councillor Suleman

Co-opted Members

Mr Mohammed Allaudin Al-Azad – Parent Governor

Standing Invitees

Rebecca Barrow

Youth Representative

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232. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Corrall, Councillor Follett, Councillor Joshi, Canon Peter Taylor, Jess Evans and Cem Turhan.

233. 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 applies to them.

No declarations were made.

**241. REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY COHESION TASK GROUP -
EFFECTIVENESS AND SUCCESSES OF THE COMMUNITY
COHESION STRATEGY**

Councillor Hall submitted a report of the Community Cohesion Task Group that recommended the Board to endorse and make comment on the review of the Cohesion Strategy.

Councillor Hall reported that the Task Group held a number of focus groups including a 'One Leicester' workshop, which were very successful in engaging with local people. He also thanked the Deputy Leader for his contribution to the sessions.

He explained that Leicester was one of few local authorities that had a Community Cohesion Strategy, and hoped that other cities would look at the work and adopt examples of good practice.

Councillor Hall described the recommendations of the Task Group to Members. As part of these it was suggested that community cohesion becomes an integral part of Ward Community Meetings. It was further recommended by the Task Group that cohesion impact assessments would be introduced that would run alongside equality impact assessments.

Members generally saw the review as an excellent piece of work, and a good model for engaging with scrutiny.

One of the youth representatives felt that task group work should be inter-generational with younger and older people working together to achieve the same aims. Councillor Hall welcomed this suggestion and stated that it was vital for younger people to be engaged at both a ward and council level.

In respect of the recommendations, a Member of the Board stated that it was vital to ensure that sustained methods of funding were in place, and that this should form part of the criteria. The suggestion was welcomed by Councillor Hall and supported by the Board.

One Member of the Board did not want to see funding for one-off projects removed, and the Board supported this. Members agreed that the strategy should include discretion for funding one-off events that were seen to be worthwhile.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the recommendations outlined in the report be supported
- (2) that a further recommendation be included around ensuring that sustained methods of funding for community cohesion projects and programmes.

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- (3) That support is given to include within the strategy discretion to fund worthwhile one-off projects and events.