



Leicester
City Council

EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Held: THURSDAY, 22 JANUARY 2008 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Westley – Vice-Chair (In the Chair)
Councillor Mugglestone

Councillor Corral	Councillor Hall
Councillor Hunt (for Cllr Suleman)	Councillor Joshi
Councillor Naylor	Councillor Russell

Co-opted Members

Mr Edward Hayes – Church of England Diocese

Standing Invitees

Rebecca Barrow	Youth Representative
Jess Evans	Youth Representative

Also In Attendance

Councillor Dempster	Cabinet Lead Member for Children, and Schools.
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304. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Blackmore and Follett, Cem Turhan and Edward Hayes.

305. 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.

Councillor Corral declared a personal interest in Appendix B, 'Housing Revenue Account – Budget 2009/10' and Appendix C 'Housing Capital Programme 2008/09 and 2009/14' as he had relatives who were Council tenants.

Councillor Westley declared a personal interest in Appendix B, 'Housing Revenue Account – Budget 2009/10' and Appendix C 'Housing Capital Programme 2008/09 and 2009/14' as he was a Council tenant.

316. PROPOSED CHANGES TO MAINSTREAM HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY AND THE INTRODUCTION OF REVISED CONTRIBUTION CHARGES FOR STUDENTS IN THE 16-19 SECTOR

The Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services submitted a report that updated the Board on the need to revise the City Council's Home to School Transport Policy in response to legislative changes. The report also proposed revised contribution charges for students in the 16-19 sector who already make a contribution

The Service Director, Strategic Planning, Commissioning and Performance introduced the paper, and stated that the proposed changes would become implemented over the next two years. He explained that the revision not only raised transport charges, but would also improve the quality of the services which were provided, as 24/7 academic year passes would be offered to students. It was made clear that these passes would be provided at below market rate.

Several Members of the Board asked whether the academic year passes could be extended to the whole calendar year to assist those students who worked during holiday times or attended placements to enhance their learning. One Member suggested that students could contribute the difference in cost. The Service Director, Strategic Planning, Commissioning and Performance stated that it would be extremely expensive for the authority to provide passes for the whole year but saw the suggestion for a contribution to be made by students as an interesting proposition that could be investigated.

One Member felt that the measurement of statutory walking distance should take into consideration journeys taken by pupils across poorly lit and potentially dangerous areas, and gave an example of pupils living on Aylestone Road who had to walk through Aylestone Meadows to attend school. In response to this, officers explained that it was often difficult to appropriately define the statutory walking distance and felt that the new appeals process would prove useful in helping to determine cases for situations such as the one outlined by the Member. However, Members were informed that that any child under any threat of danger would be eligible for transport. It was further stated that the Authority observed national guidance on Safe Routes to School.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the report be noted; and

- (2) that the introduction of revised contribution charges (Option 2) be supported.