



Leicester
City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Held: THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2009 at 5.30pm

P.R.E.S.E.N.T.

Councillor Mugglestone—Chair
Councillor Westley - Vice-Chair

Councillor Corrall	Councillor Hall
Councillor Joshi	Councillor Naylor
Councillor Newcombe (for Cllr J. Blackmore)	Councillor Russell
Cllr Suleman	

Co-opted Members

Mr Mohammed Alauddin Al-Azad – Parent Governor
Mr Michael Asquith – 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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374. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Blackmore and Follett, and Mr Edward Hayes, Roman Catholic Diocese.

375. 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.

381. REPOSITIONING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY AT LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

The Service Director, Democratic Services submitted a report that outlined proposed amendments to the way in which scrutiny of children and education in Leicester City Council was undertaken.

Gordon Armstrong, Members Support Officer introduced the item and stated that the report proposed that all reports prepared by the Children and Young People's Services Department be considered by a separate scrutiny body. It was felt that this would allow the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to provide more in-depth scrutiny on the work within the other departments. Gordon explained that the Cabinet Lead Member for Children, Schools and Young People, as well as the four statutory co-opted members and the youth representatives would be invited to each meeting of the new scrutiny body.

The Chair stated that he was keen to continue to invite the youth representatives to meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Members generally welcomed the repositioning, and saw education matters as those that needed particularly close scrutiny.

One Member of the Board asked for clarification in terms of the arrangements for the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the new scrutiny committee. Another Member of the Board explained that this information was not included in the report as it was a political matter, and that these arrangements would be confirmed at Full Council.

A Member of the Board suggested that a Member of the Forum for Older People Consultative Group be invited to meetings of both scrutiny bodies as a standing invitee. This suggestion was not supported, with several members stating that youth representatives had been invited to the scrutiny board as they were not eligible to stand for election, and therefore could not help to inform the council, whilst older people could do so. It was acknowledged that several current serving Members of the Council were of a pensionable age. It was also pointed out that it was perhaps more appropriate for consultees such as older people to be invited to Scrutiny Task Group meetings.

One Member of the Board felt that further reference was needed within the report in terms of scrutinising the Leicester Partnership, and stated that this was not currently being appropriately carried out. The Board agreed that the report be amended to ask the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as well as the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to specifically look at how the Leicester Partnership could be appropriately scrutinised.

Councillor Dempster, Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Schools welcomed the repositioning of Children and Young People Scrutiny. She pointed out that a significant level of scrutiny of the department was already taking place in the form of the Learning Environment Board, which had cross-

party representation. She further stated that the new committee would have a statutory responsibility to invite the four co-opted members who currently sat on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, but felt that by inviting representatives of a particular social group, other than the youth representatives, could be problematic. She issued a plea that careful consideration be given at scrutiny agenda meetings in terms of which scrutiny body a particular report would be submitted to, and saw it as an exception that a particular report would be submitted to both bodies.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the recommendations set out in paragraph 3 of the report be supported.
- (2) That the report be amended to ask the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as well as the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to specifically look at how the Leicester Partnership could be appropriately scrutinised.