



Leicester  
City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Held: THURSDAY, 9 JULY 2009 at 5.30pm

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

Councillor Grant– Chair

Councillor Gill (for Cllr Suleman)	Councillor Glover
Councillor Hall	Councillor Joshi
Councillor Naylor (for Cllr Newcombe)	Councillor Potter
Councillor Shah	

Also In Attendance

Councillor Patel	Cabinet Member for Finance, Community Cohesion and Human Resources.
Councillor Palmer	Cabinet Lead Member for Adults and Older People
Councillor Westley	Cabinet Lead Member for Housing

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**31. HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2008-2013**

The Service Director, Housing Accommodation and Tenancy Support and the Service Director Housing Renewal & Options submitted a joint report that considered Leicester's Homelessness Strategy 2008–2013.

Julie Turner, Strategy and Performance, introduced the paper and stated that a second homelessness strategy had been produced on a new review of the services provided.

Councillor Westley, Cabinet Lead Member for Housing was permitted to speak during this item. He stated that the authority had responded well to the issue of homelessness as there had been a fall in cases within the past five years. He felt that there was a need to continue to employ a preventative approach to homelessness, and explained that it

was vital for partner agencies to continue to contribute to the work in this field.

Councillor Westley informed the Board that it was aimed to eradicate all rough sleepers in Leicester by 2012.

One Member was concerned with the amount of time families spent in temporary accommodation. Councillor Westley stated that average length of stays for families in temporary accommodation had declined, and that the authority was beginning to move away from placing families in bed and breakfast accommodation and motels. Vijay Desor, Head of Housing Options Service reported that efforts were being made to half the number of those living in temporary accommodation, and that officers worked hard to look for settled accommodation for such families.

In response to a further question from a Member of the Board, officers confirmed that there had only recently been one case of repeat homelessness in Leicester.

A Member of the Board questioned what the impact of the recession had been on the housing options service, and whether figures on the numbers of rough sleepers in the city were available. In response to the first question, Vijay explained that there had been a rise in the number of cases of Private Landlords with a second home entering insolvency. She further stated that the Governments' mortgage rescue scheme would provide a degree of relief to those who were under severe financial pressure.

In terms of figures around the numbers of those sleeping rough in Leicester, Julie explained that a number of snap-shot exercises had taken place and that these had concluded that there had been a rise in cases since 2008. It was made clear that further exercises would be taking place in the near future.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.