



Leicester  
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
STRATEGIC PLANNING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: THURSDAY 06 DECEMBER 2001 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Hunt - Chair

Councillor Mrs. Chambers - Conservative Spokesperson

Councillor Henry  
Councillor Hunter

Councillor Soulsby  
Councillor Sood (for Cllr Bodell-Stagg)

Councillor Thomas

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**38. ADVICE STRATEGY**

The Director of Environment, Development and Commercial Services submitted a report which sought to; define the relationship between the City Council and the Community Legal Services Partnership for Leicester; establish the City Council's priorities for commissioning of advice services; and to put in to place the arrangements necessary to secure Best Value in the provision of advice services within Leicester.

Members of the Committee noted the challenges raised by the report, namely that services be moved to a more appropriate place, extra funding from outside sources, funding for neighbourhood provision at a relevant level and the maximisation of in-house services.

Members also raised concern over the findings of the Best Value Review of Social Welfare Advice Services showing a lack of co-ordination and no overall assessment for the City. It was hoped that the new strategy would remove any duplication of services as this was felt to be wasteful of resources. The idea of an umbrella organisation was endorsed as a way of co-ordinating advice services in the City; this should also provide training and monitor standards of advice. Support was also given for the provision of basic advice service on a neighbourhood basis.

Members of the Committee also considered that advice services external to the Council should also be focused upon to provide more efficient advice services.

It was also noted that internally the Council may duplicate some services between departments.

Officers stated that they expected the strategy to improve the quality and service of advice in the City. There was to be a further emphasis on the monitoring of services. The meeting was also informed that the City Council was involved in a pilot scheme for performance indicators which would inform the service levels to be achieved for the proposed new contracts with external advice providers.

**RESOLVED:**

that the views of the Committee be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.