



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
FINANCE, RESOURCES AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY 08 MAY 2002 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Mrs. Middleton - Chair
Councillor Thomas - Labour Spokesperson

Councillor Bhatti
Councillor Coley

Councillor Garrity
Councillor Gajjar

Councillor Kamal

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(In accordance with Rule 6 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, in the absence of the Chair, Councillor Mrs Middleton chaired the meeting with the agreement of Councillor Thomas)

102. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were requested to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act applied to them.

No such declarations were made.

109. VACANCIES WITHIN THE CITY COUNCIL

The Town Clerk and Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report informing the Committee of the current vacancy position within the Council. This report was received in addition to the programmed six monthly report on vacancies at the request of the Committee.

The Committee expressed their concern that the statistics shown in the report were not a true reflection of the amount of current vacancies in departments. Attention was drawn particularly to the Arts and Leisure and Housing Departments. There was a feeling that some departments may be deliberately keeping posts vacant as part of a strategy to assist with the management of departmental budgets but to the detriment of service delivery.

The Committee requested that the report and their concerns be referred on to

Cabinet, and that an additional report on hard to fill vacancies be submitted alongside the programmed six monthly report on Council wide vacancies in September. The Committee also agreed to ask that all departmental Personnel Managers attend the meeting, along with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Human Resources issues in order to answer any detailed queries that Members may have.

The Committee also expressed their wish to be consulted on any proposals to replace the existing job evaluation scheme and grading structure in the Authority before the matter was considered by Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report and the Committee's concerns be referred on to Cabinet.
- (2) That the Town Clerk and Director of Corporate Resources be asked to prepare a further report on hard to fill vacancies for the September meeting of the Committee alongside the programmed report on Council wide vacancies.
- (3) That departmental Personnel Managers and the Cabinet lead for Human Resources issues be invited to attend the September meeting of the Committee in order to discuss the concerns raised.