



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Held: THURSDAY, 20 MAY 2010 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Johnson (Chair)
Councillor Chowdhury (Vice Chair)

Councillor Bhavsar

Councillor Desai

Councillor Senior

* * * * *

67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were requested to declare any interests they may have in the business on the agenda and/or indicate if Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

Councillor Senior declared a personal interest in items on the agenda as her partner was a City Council employee. Councillor Choudhury declared a personal interest in items on the agenda as his son was a teacher employed by the City Council.

70. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE: ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009/10

A report and presentation of the Director of Corporate Governance was received which gave details of the results of the annual review of the key policies and procedures which form the Council's Corporate Governance Framework. The Framework required annual self-assessment to assess compliance against the CIPFA/SOLACE six core principles of good governance. It was noted that the overall position was positive with all assessments green or green/amber though constant change to aspects such as the Constitution meant that there was always change required and so was difficult to reach the highest levels of assurance.

Appendices to the report summarised the position, gave full details of action against each requirement, the core principles and summarised the position in respect of complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman. It was noted that

there had been no findings of maladministration from the Ombudsman during the year 2009/10 though the number of local settlements had increased with a considerable increase in payments made, though much of the increase in costs related to one particular case. For future years it was stated that lead officers would prepare updates quarterly with reports required for Senior Management Board where progress slipped.

Members noted that a number of policies didn't show improvement since the period 2007/08 and referred to Communications Strategy which remained at Amber. In response it was noted that the Communications Strategy was currently awaiting development. The changes to Standards processes proposed by Government were also noted.

RESOLVED that:

1. the position summarised in the annual report be noted;
2. Cabinet be requested to consider what action was necessary in those areas where no progress had been made; and
3. Cabinet be requested to consider the position regarding the Communication Strategy where no assurance was able to be given.