



Leicester
City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the PERFORMANCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY SELECT COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 28 JULY 2010 at 5.30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Coley – Chair

Councillor Desai – Vice-Chair

Councillor Chowdhury
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Draycott

Councillor Grant
Councillor Kitterick
Councillor Willmott

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33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bayford.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they had in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

Councillor Chowdhury declared a personal interest in agenda item 7, "Building Schools for the Future and Changes to School Governance", as his son worked in a school in the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Councillor Coley declared a personal interest in agenda item 7, "Building Schools for the Future and changes to School Governance", as he was a member of the Shadow Board of New College.

Alistair Reid, (Strategic Director – Development, Culture and Regeneration), declared a personal interest in agenda item 7, "Building Schools for the Future and changes to School Governance", as he was a director of Leicester Miller Education Company.

Councillor Connelly declared a personal interest in the discussion on Prospect Leicestershire held under agenda item 8, "Any Other Urgent Business", as he was an employee of Royal Mail.

Alistair Reid, (Strategic Director – Development, Culture and Regeneration), declared a personal interest in the discussion on Prospect Leicester Shire held under agenda item 8, “Any Other Urgent Business”, as he was a Director of Prospect Leicestershire.

38. EQUALITIES PERFORMANCE

The Head of Equalities presented a report updating the Committee on progress with embedding equalities within the Council’s business.

The Committee noted that Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) carried out within the Council between 2006 and 2009 had been analysed and the main areas of need identified. These findings currently were being reviewed by the Equality Forums and would be reported to this Committee at its meeting on 22 September 2010.

Members expressed concern that the scale of forthcoming budget reductions could make it difficult to maintain fairness, and the perception of fairness, to residents. It also was important that, as well as improving equality, steps should be taken to prevent inequality increasing as budget reductions were implemented. The Head of Equalities suggested that all Priority Boards would need to identify their key priorities for vulnerable people and to identify vulnerable groups. The Council held sufficient strategic needs assessment information to be able to establish a base line for this, so services which could be reduced with the minimum impact on inequalities could be identified.

During discussion on this it was suggested that the government and the Local Government Association could be lobbied, to make them aware of the adverse effects of the forthcoming budget cuts, but it also was noted that budget cuts would have been needed irrespective of which political party was in government.

The Committee also was advised that the government intended to relax ringfencing around certain funding.

RESOLVED:

that Cabinet be recommended to identify the impact of likely budget reductions as soon as possible, and lobby the government and the Local Government Association to make them aware of the potential adverse effects on the City .