



Leicester
City Council

MINUTES
EXTRACT

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

Held: THURSDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2002 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Hunt - Chair
Councillor Soulsby - Labour Spokesperson
Councillor Mugglestone - Conservative Spokesperson

Councillor Henry
Councillor Hunter

Councillor Sood
Councillor Thomas

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Kavia –

Cabinet Lead Member for Strategic
Planning and Regeneration

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24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance 1992 applied to them.

Councillor Thomas declared a personal interest in the paper entitled “Highfields Minimum Wage Project” as a member of his family worked for the Inland Revenue.

31. THE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF REGENERATION SERVICES

The Service Director, Regeneration, the Head of Legal Services and the Chief Financial Officer submitted a joint report outlining the City Council’s management and administration arrangements for regeneration.

Members of the Committee welcomed the report and were reassured by a number of the issues it addressed. The Committee also noted the changes to employment law under the fixed wage regulations which gave employees who had been employed for four years on short term contracts the same rights as a permanent employee. Officers commented this had the effect of staff being given other roles within the division as regeneration programmes finished.

Officers stated that the Human Resources situation in the Regeneration Services was under review as there was a move from area based projects which had characterised regeneration up until now. The role of staff in regeneration was changing from managing area bases projects to developing city wide programmes and analysis of staffing needs was done as these changes occurred.

There was also a report being prepared for a future meeting in which the details of how regeneration staff and those in Neighbourhood Renewal would work together. Members of the Committee requested to comment on this report at an early stage.

Members of the Committee wished to formally ask Cabinet to consider the retention of experienced staff in Regeneration Services and whether they felt there were sufficient arrangements to ensure this happened. The Cabinet Lead Member for Strategic Planning and Regeneration was in attendance at the meeting and briefly commented that a number of other cities had experience similar problems with regard to retaining high level staff with experience in regeneration.

RESOLVED:

that Cabinet be requested to consider the retention of experienced staff in Regeneration Services and whether they felt there were sufficient arrangements to ensure this happened.

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