



Leicester  
City Council

## APPENDIX G

### MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Held: THURSDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2011 at 7:00pm

P.R.E.S.E.N.T.

Councillor Grant – Chair  
Councillor Bhavsar – Vice-Chair

Councillor Aqbany	Councillor Bajaj
Councillor Johnson (for Cllr Scuplak)	Councillor Kitterick (for Cllr Clair)
Councillor Newcombe	Councillor Potter (for Cllr Joshi)

Councillor Suleman

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#### **140. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clair, Joshi and Scuplak.

#### **141. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

No such interests were declared.

#### **146. ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY**

The Strategic Director, Development, Regeneration and Culture submitted a report that outlined why the Council needed to address the structural problems of New Walk Centre (NWC) and explained how making a positive decision in the current financial climate would unlock funding for other purposes and act as a catalyst for redefining the Council's offer to the people of Leicester, changing the nature of public service into the future.

The Strategic Director, Development, Regeneration and Culture, introduced the report and stated that a rigorous options appraisal in connection with office accommodation for staff had taken place, and that the report sought approval

for further work to commence in relation option 3 (acquisition and refurbishment of the mercury building with retention of other buildings) and option 4 (structural strengthening and refurbishment of A Block only and retention of other buildings, with demolition/sale of B Block to then follow)

Members generally expressed concern around the recommendation for the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Leader to select between options 3 and 4 at the end of the extended appraisal period. Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Suleman moved that the decision to select the preferred option be taken by full Council. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED.

It was felt that a move away from New Walk Centre could serve a heavy negative impact on businesses in the Market Street and Belvoir Street area. Members suggested that further work in relation to the consequences of this be further explored.

Several members expressed concern around whether a robust procurement exercise had been performed. It was commented that as part of the exercise to score the various options, option 2 received two points less than option 4 , but that no justification for not proceeding with this option had been provided.

Concern was also expressed that a recommendation was presented around releasing £1.65m to fund the IT transformational change programme without wider context of this being provided to members. In light of the amount of money in question, Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Suleman, moved that a separate report which provided greater detail in respect of the £1.65m required to fund the IT transformational change programme be brought to the Board. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Cabinet be asked to agree to refer the final decision for selecting a preferred option to Full Council; and
- (2) That a report which provides greater detail on the IT transformational change programme be brought to the Board.