



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

Held: THURSDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2002 at 5.30pm

<u>PRESENT:</u>

<u>Councillor Blackmore - Chair</u> <u>Councillor Mrs. Middleton - Conservative Spokesperson</u> <u>Councillor Connelly - Labour Spokesperson</u>

Councillor Coley

Councillor Gajjar Councillor Soulsby

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE :

Councillor Patel – Cabinet Lead Member for Finance and Resources

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62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No declarations were made.

72. DRAFT REVENUE STRATEGY FOR THE RESOURCES, ACCESS AND DIVERSITY DEPARTMENT

The Corporate Director, Resources, Access and Diversity and the Chief Finance Officer submitted a joint report seeking the views of the Scrutiny Committee on the draft Revenue Strategy for the Resources, Access and Diversity department.

The Committee noted that the savings required to balance the Department's budget to its planning target were relatively modest for 2003/04 and 2004/05, largely because the Department had only a small residual gap from previous years strategies.

The Committee asked if there would be a significant impact on costs if the change to postal voting was introduced. The Committee noted that it was hard to say how quickly the use of postal votes would go up. It was noted that any

increase in costs resulting from postal votes could be offset by a reduction in costs of using poll clerks, but that postal votes would be city wide whilst poll clerks serve specific stations. The Town Clerk agreed to give the best possible estimate of the costs using the postal system against the costs of using a polling station, and circulate it to Members of the Committee. It was noted that all postal elections would require legislation.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report be noted and,
- (2) That the Town Clerk circulate to the Committee details of the potential cost of postal votes.