

MINUTES EXTRACT

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

Held: THURSDAY, 23 JANUARY 2003 at 5.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Blackmore - Chair
Councillor Mrs. Middleton - Conservative Spokesperson
Councillor Connelly - Labour Spokesperson

Councillor Coley

Councillor Gajjar

Councillor Subedar

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77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No declarations were made.

86. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF ICT AND E GOVERNMENT

The Corporate Director, Resources, Access and Diversity, submitted a report presenting the Final Report and Improvement Plan from the first phase of the Best Value Review of ICT and E Government. The Committee noted that the second phase of the review, concentrating on e-government, would be starting shortly and was expected to be brought back to Committee for comment in the Autumn.

Concern was expressed by the Committee that IT training for employees was not consistent across the Council. The amount undertaken appears to depend on the availability of funding and the relevant line manager's interest in the subject. It was felt that it would be beneficial to have employees trained to similar standards, regardless of which department they are in, in order to develop their IT skills and improve their career prospects by being able to pursue job opportunities in all departments within the Council. It was also felt that the Council should endeavour to offer all employees a basic level of IT

training regardless of whether their job required IT or not.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report be noted, and
- (2) That the issues of standards of IT training and funding, particularly providing a basic level of IT training to all Council employees, be investigated further.