MINUTE EXTRACT



Minutes of the Meeting of the HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: THURSDAY, 21 AUGUST 2003 at 4.00pm

<u>PRESENT:</u>

<u>Councillor Draycott - Chair</u> <u>Councillor Allen - Conservative Spokesperson</u> <u>Councillor Smith - Liberal Democrat Spokesperson</u>

Councillor CorrallCouncillor KarimCouncillor Getliffe(for Cllr Shelton)Councillor Keeling (for Cllr Almey)

Also in Attendance

Christine Cronogue - Leicester Federation of Tenants' Associations

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16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

The following personal and prejudicial interests were declared in Minute 21-'Stock Options Appraisal', Minute 25 -'Collection of Water Charges', Minute 26 - Chestnut Pale Fencing' and Minute 27 - 'Window Replacement Prioritisation'. :-

Councillor Corrall - related to the tenant of a Council property Councillor Draycott - related to the tenant of a Council property Councillor Getliffe - tenant of, and related to, a tenant of a Council property Councillor Smith - tenant of a Council property Chris Cronogue - tenant of a Council property

Members were advised that the interests did not apply under the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct, Paragraph 10(d), and therefore these Councillors and Mrs Cronogue could remain in the meeting, and take part in discussion on these items.

22. REVIEW OF LOW DEMAND SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION

The Corporate Director of Housing submitted a report concerning a recent review of Sheltered Accommodation in the City.

The report explained that there was a growing frail elderly population in the City, but most older people preferred to receive health care and social support in their own homes. In this context, the demand for the Council's Sheltered Accommodation was falling, although individual schemes remained popular, and some had a waiting list.

A number of initiatives had been taken to increase demand, but there were some schemes where there was still low demand. The report described the implications of closing Lily Marriott House, and William Smith House, which were both under subscribed.

Members' attention was drawn to a petition with 581 signatures, received from Councillor Getliffe, in the following terms :

"We, the undersigned tenants, together with the community in and around William Smith House, Beaumont Leys, call on the ruling Cabinet and the Council to reject moves to dispose of the property by any means, therefore depriving us of our homes. We further call upon the Council to invest resources, and come forward with a means of ensuring our futures, and those members of the community who will benefit from the facilities provided in William Smith House in the future."

Councillor Getliffe spoke at length on behalf of the residents of William Smith House.

Councillor Allen moved that the Scrutiny Committee support the proposals to close Lily Marriott House, and William Smith House; this was seconded by Councillor Smith, and put to the vote.

Councillors Allen, Karim, Keeling and Smith voted for the motion. Councillors Corrall, Draycott and Getliffe voted against the motion.

The motion was carried by four votes to three.

RESOLVED :

- (1) that the petition be noted; and
- (2) that the Cabinet be informed that the Scrutiny Committee supported the proposals for the closure of Lily Marriott House, and William Smith House.