



Leicester
City Council

Minute extract

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

Held: THURSDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2003 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Bhatti - Chair
Councillor Mrs. Middleton - Conservative Spokesperson
Councillor Karim – Liberal Democrat Spokesperson

Councillor Draycott

Councillor Garrity

Councillor Willmott

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44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked 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.

There were no declarations of interest.

49. LEGAL SERVICES BEST VALUE REVIEW - SELF ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS

The Town Clerk submitted a report following the self assessment stages of the Legal Services Best Value Review, summarising emerging issues and improvement options and recommendations for the way forward.

The Committee noted that the self assessment process had demonstrated that that some departments may be unnecessarily dependent on Legal Services and that there was scope for further proactive work to explore what activities could be more efficiently handled within service departments. It was also noted that growing room needed to be created to enable legal staff to address other concerns which had been made by Corporate Directors.

Members expressed appreciation for the professional service and support received.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report be noted,

- (2) that the Committee recommends that a sustainable in house legal service be retained,
- (3) that the Committee recommend that Legal Services rebalances its staff profile to better match demand,
- (4) that the Committee recommend that departments and Legal Services work together to find ways of reducing the need for formal legal services; and
- (5) that the Service Director (Legal Services) finalises the improvement plan in line with Members' decision, and in consultation with the Scrutiny Director for the review, for submission to the Finance, Resources and Equal Opportunities Committee and Cabinet for approval.