



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
ARTS, LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2003 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Clair - Chair
Councillor Mrs Maw - Conservative Spokesperson
Councillor Sandringham - Liberal Democrat Spokesperson

Councillor Green
Councillor Hall

Councillor Vincent (for Councillor Keeling)
Councillor Fitch (for Councillor Seare)

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25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked 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 applies to them.

There were no declarations made.

36. CONSUMER PROTECTION SERVICE PLAN

The Director of Environment, Regeneration and Development presented a report introducing the 2003/04 Service Plan for Consumer protection. It was explained that the Governments National Performance Framework for Trading Standards required the Council to produce a member endorsed service plan for business regulation and consumer protection. The key areas that the plan covered were counterfeiting, builders taking advantage of vulnerable members of the public, advice to businesses, monitoring the sale of age restricted products and equality issues. The various strategies and plans in place to tackle these issues were briefly outlined.

Members expressed support for the plans and its aims. They asked for details of how the authority had been tackling Leicester's reputation as a centre for counterfeiting and also about any plans to tackle the import and sale of illegal tobacco.

The Director of Environment, Regeneration and Development explained that the number of complaints about counterfeiting of branded products had fallen significantly and that Leicester no longer suffered as much with a reputation as

a centre for counterfeiting. This had been as a result of the enforcement work that the authority had undertaken and that counterfeiting was now cheaper to undertake elsewhere. There would now be a concentration of targeting counterfeiting of media, such as DVD's. It was reported that the enforcement work for tackling illegal tobacco was largely undertaken by Customs and Excise.

RESOLVED:

that the report be noted.