



Leicester  
City Council

## MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
STRATEGIC PLANNING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2003 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Farmer - Chair  
Councillor Thomas - Labour Spokesperson  
Councillor O'Brien - Conservative Spokesperson

Councillor Fitch  
Councillor Saleh

Councillor Kitterick  
Councillor Waddington

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### **58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Councillors O'Brien and Thomas declared an interest in Minute 64 - 'Presentation on Plans for the Former Granby Halls Site', as they were Members of the Development Control Committee which would be considering the planning application for the site.

They remained in the meeting, but did not speak on the item.

### **66. LEICESTER LOCAL EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY**

The Service Director (Environment, Regeneration and Development) submitted a report seeking endorsement of the Leicester Economic Regeneration Partnership's (LERP) Local Employment Strategy.

The report explained that the Strategy was aimed at improving employment outcomes for all Leicester residents, as a requirement of the Community Plan 2003.

Members raised particular concern at the issue of low pay mentioned on Page 16 of the report, where Leicester was identified as having the lowest wages in

the East Midlands, with the exception of Lincolnshire.

Members considered that some of the reasons for this was poor literacy, a high percentage of economically inactive groups such as older people, ethnic minority and disabled people, and inadequate public transport to places of work outside of the City Centre. Many people also feared that if they took on employment they would lose their benefit payments.

Members commented on the need to have regard to the needs of people in Leicester, to provide access to employment, to enable adequate public transport, and to surmount language barriers.

They also requested more information to be provided on research into the minimum wage.

RESOLVED :

- (1) that the Leicester Economic Regeneration Partnership Employment Strategy be endorsed;
- (2) that the Local Authority act as one of the lead partners in the delivery of the Strategy, and support the Leicester Economic Regeneration Partnership to develop a multi-agency action plan relating to the Strategy; and
- (3) that the Strategy be disseminated across the Local Authority and other key agencies in the City.