



Leicester  
City Council

## MINUTE EXTRACT

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

Held: MONDAY, 14 JUNE 2004 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Bhatti - Chair

Councillor Mrs. Middleton - Conservative Spokesperson

Councillor Draycott

Councillor Hunt (for Cllr. Garrity)

Councillor Fitch (for Cllr. Karim)

Councillor Renold

Councillor Willmott

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### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

There were no declarations.

### 15. REVIEW OF STAFFING REVIEWS

Members of the Committee expressed concerns that the report being submitted to Cabinet on 21 June was inviting the Cabinet to ignore Scrutiny Committees and to reduce member involvement in reviews. It was also felt that this was an attempt to change the constitution by improper means as this would reduce members rights to ask for information for them to scrutinise under the need to know principle.

Members of the Committee noted that the Cabinet were only giving an initial steer at this point, it was therefore requested that the final report on this matter be considered at this Committee.

The Assistant Head of Legal Services urged a note of caution as to the extent to which members could get involved in staffing matters as these were often governed by an individual's terms and conditions of employment. Members of the Committee accepted this point and asked for detailed information to be included in the final report which outlined what scrutiny's legal powers were in

this area. Members also noted that their concerns were not related to individual cases but to the effect on services that staffing reviews would have.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Committee recommends that Cabinet should not accept this report as it attempts to amend the constitution by reducing members rights to ask for information under the need to know principle;
- (2) that the Committee recommends that Cabinet should not accept any attempt to reduce Scrutiny Committee's rights to investigate any part or operation of the Council including staffing reviews; and
- (3) that this Committee receive the final report on the review of staffing reviews and that report is to include detailed legal information on the implications of scrutiny involvement during staffing reviews.