



Leicester
City Council

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

Held: THURSDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2004 at 5.00pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Bhatti - Chair
Councillor Karim - Liberal Democrat Spokesperson

Councillor Draycott
Councillor Hunt (for Councillor Garrity)
Councillor Willmott
Councillor Grant
Councillor Renold

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54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were requested 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 applied to them.

Councillor Willmott declared a non prejudicial interest as a Council appointee of the Energy Agency Board.

59. POLITICAL STANDS ON THE HIGHWAY

The Service Director, Legal Services submitted a report which summarised the law relating to political activity and stands placed on the highway. In summary, it was explained that, according to current law, the Council does not have the powers to restrict such activities on political grounds, did have powers on nuisance and timescale issues.

Councillor Draycott stated, as a matter of accuracy, that the issue first arose at a full Council meeting, and therefore, interest had been shown not only within this Committee, but also by other Members of the Council.

It was noted that the penultimate sentence of paragraph 5.1 should read compatible rather than incompatible.

The Committee welcomed the report and acknowledged the powers which the Authority had, which Members felt to be adequate. Members felt that the Authority needed to have a clear understanding of Council policy on this issue alongside legal requirements.

Councillor Renold, seconded by Councillor Draycott, proposed that the Committee request that Cabinet respect and uphold the right of free speech in the City, within the bounds of the law and that any exceptions to the Council's policy be agreed cross-party. He also proposed that a further report be brought to the Committee when a policy on how to deal with these applications was proposed.

Upon being out to the vote the motion was CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Committee request that Cabinet adopt a policy which respects and upholds the right of free speech in the City, within the bounds of the Law and that any exceptions to the Council's policy be agreed cross-party and,
- (2) that a further report be submitted to the Committee when a policy on how to deal with applications is proposed.