



Leicester  
City Council

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

Held: THURSDAY, 17 MARCH 2005 at 5.00pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Karim - Chair  
Councillor J Blackmore – Labour Spokesperson  
Councillor Grant – Conservative Spokesperson

Councillor Chohan

Councillor Hall

Councillor Renold

**105. ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2003/04**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report introducing the Annual Audit letter for 2003/04. Phil Jones and Trevor Croote from District Audit were present at the meeting.

The Committee noted that the letter confirmed continued improvements in the Council's performance in a number of areas, as well as identifying areas where improvements were indicated. The overall conclusion of the letter was that the Council had made improvements in a number of areas and made significant investments to strengthen service delivery, maintained its overall CPA score and consolidated further the good progress already made.

Councillor J Blackmore raised issues around the view that the Council was on a sound financial footing, and asked questions about this view in light of the review of youth and community services in Education and Lifelong Learning, which had resulted in increased spending of £1 million in 2005 and £2.5 million in 2006 rather than the anticipated £500,000 savings. It was noted that this was an issue which the District Auditor had only recently become aware of, and that the views in the Audit Letter were based on the accounts of 2004/05, whilst this information related to the potential cost of management restructuring in the future. It was noted that a full report would be produced showing what had gone wrong and how similar situations could be prevented in the future.

The Committee were also informed that District Audit would be looking at the process for determining early retirements and work around SRB in the forthcoming year.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Audit Letter be noted.