



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

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110. SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO OFFICERS

The Service Director, Legal Services, submitted a report summarising the outcome of the consultation process of the review of the Council's scheme of delegation. The report outlined the views of all the Scrutiny Committees who had been consulted so far and sought the views of the Committee before the reports submission to Cabinet in April. The Committee noted that action had already been taken in response to the views expressed by Scrutiny Committees, Corporate Directors are now required to maintain ongoing records of all decisions made in consultation with Cabinet Leads, this information being open to Scrutiny, and further training on the Constitution/Scheme of Delegation has been introduced for individual Councillors on request, and also included as part of the general Councillor induction programme.

The Committee expressed their concern about the number and type of decisions taken at Corporate Director level, and the lack of political input on some major decisions. The Committee felt that the entire scheme of delegation needed to be looked at again, and that Officers should take less decisions. It was also the view that the Cabinet should reserve back to itself a lot of the functions currently delegated to Officers to ensure that there was adequate political input. The Committee also felt that there needed to be a full scale review of the structure of the Council as a whole.

It was proposed by Councillor J Blackmore, seconded by Councillor Renold,

and

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Committee welcome the report and associated comments of other Scrutiny Committees, in particular those of the Education and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee, and request that Cabinet look again at the scheme of delegation, taking into account all information provided on the subject, and agree that the relevant Scrutiny Committee is consulted on all decisions involving changes to 5 or more staff, expenditure of £50,000 or more, major changes in a service or any decision with the Scrutiny Committee feels it should consider,
- (2) that the Committee recommend to Cabinet that there be a full scale review of the Officer structure of the City Council, and
- (3) that the Committee recommend to Cabinet that it looks at the scheme of delegation and reserves back to itself more decisions to be taken at Cabinet level.