



Leicester
City Council

MINUTE
EXTRACT

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

Held: MONDAY, 9 MAY 2005 at 6.00pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Scuplak - Chair
Councillor Thomas - Labour Spokesperson
Councillor Farmer – Liberal Democrat Spokesperson

Councillor Almey

Councillor J. Blackmore (for
Cllr. Shelton

Councillor Fitch

Councillor Wann

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103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

There were no declarations.

107. PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT 2005/2006

The Service Director, Environment submitted a report which noted that Leicester had been awarded a Planning Delivery Grant of £494,495 for 2005/2006. The report explained what the Planning Delivery Grant was, what last year's grant had been used for and how it was proposed to spend the grant this year.

A Member of the Committee queried whether use of the grant in the manner outlined in the report meant that ongoing commitments for expenditure were being created. The Service Director, Environment noted that one of the main difficulties with planning delivery grant was that it was only one off money with no guarantee of future income. He stated that it was difficult to employ staff on a 12-month contract so the decision was taken, in certain cases to employ staff on a permanent basis. However he was confident that existing levels of turnover of staff would prevent any problems should the money run out.

A Member of the Committee queried what a 'critical friend' was, as mentioned

in the report. The Service Director, Environment informed the Committee that it was an external adviser who assesses the planning service and makes recommendations for improvement. The assessor had already spoke to some committee members. He also noted that the report would be submitted to the scrutiny committee in the summer.

A Member of the Committee noted that there had been difficulties with appointing to the proposed Developer Contributions Post. He suggested that it may be necessary to utilise the services of consultants to carry out this work. The Service Director, Environment agreed that there had been difficulties appointing in this area and he was considering utilising agency staff to cover the work in this area.

RESOLVED:

that the report be supported.