



Leicester  
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 4 JANUARY 2006 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Westley - Chair  
Councillor Green (Liberal Democrat Spokesperson)  
Councillor O'Brien (Conservative Spokesperson)

Councillor Dempster

Councillor Sood

I N A T T E N D A N C E

Councillor Gill – Cabinet Lead for Social Care and Health  
Dr Steve Whitehead – Advisor to the Committee

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**29. 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 applied to them.

Councillor Westley declared a non-prejudicial interest in that he had a relative who was employed at the Leicester Royal Infirmary.

**36. PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT**

Dr Steve Whitehead, Director of Public Health, submitted the Public Health Annual report, which was circulated to Members at the meeting. Members were asked to consider how they may address the issues raised in the report.

The difference in life expectancy in Leicester as compared with the rest of the country was explained, as were differences within the city itself. It was explained that, although the report did not take into account factors such as environmental health, unemployment, housing, lifestyle, poverty and education, these were addressed in partnership with other organisations. There was a target to reduce health inequalities by 2010. Some issues which would help with this could be considered by the Health Scrutiny Committee. A list of 10 issues which needed to be addressed was outlined, some aspects of which the Committee had previously considered. It was recommended that the Committee incorporate the remaining issues in the work programme for the

forthcoming year. It was also recommended that the matter be considered by other relevant Scrutiny Committees which could have an impact on any of the issues.

Members agreed that they should look at the issues in depth and that it would be advisable for the report to be considered by other relevant Scrutiny Committees. An example of this would be the Housing Scrutiny Committee which could consider the impact of poor housing on health. Members also felt that the matter should be considered by Cabinet. Councillor Gill stated that he would work with the Director of Public Health to promote the whole health agenda with the support of Cabinet.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the Chair and Spokespersons of the Health Scrutiny Committee consider how the issues raised in the report could be addressed in the Committee's work programme.
- 2) That the report and the comments of the Health Scrutiny Committee be referred to Cabinet for consideration and relevant Scrutiny Committees be recommended to look at issues from this discussion which are pertinent to them.

