



Leicester
City Council

**MINUTE
EXTRACT**

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

Held: THURSDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2006 at 5.00pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Willmott - Chair
Councillor Renold – Liberal Democrat Spokesperson
Councillor Porter – Conservative Spokesperson

Councillor Hunt
Councillor Karim

Councillor Kitterick
Councillor Thomas
(for Cllr. J. Blackmore)

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86. 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.

There were no declarations.

95. 2005/06 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING - PERIOD 7

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report updating Members on the progress of the capital programme for 2005/06 up to the end of October.

Members of the Committee queried the delay in progress with the Children's Centres. The Chief Finance Officer commented that the tenders for the centres had been higher than anticipated and a reconsideration of the specification had been undertaken. He undertook to find out when it was expected that work would be completed.

Queries were also made about works at the Saffron Lane Sports Centre site, the length of time taken for replacement of mobile classrooms and when the castle park bridge would be available for use by the public. The Chief Finance Officer commented that work had been approved to replace the provision at the sports centre site. Slippage was due to poor weather conditions preventing work on the replacement track. With regard to mobile classroom replacement he noted that there had been difficulties with detailed design of replacements. He expressed a general concern about slippage, which was continuing to increase (and the next report would show further increases) With regard to

Castle Park Bridge he stated that there were ongoing legal difficulties over liability issues.

Members of the Committee noted that there were problems with slippage in a number of projects and expressed concerns that any reductions in Council staff could make this problem worse.

Further concerns were expressed about slippage in housing projects, particularly with regard to shed doors. The Chief Finance Officer explained that the level of income received from right to buy receipts had reduced and the Capital programme had been reorganised accordingly.

The Chief Finance Officer reported to the Committee that there had been an increase in general fund capital receipts since the report had been written.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Committee expresses concerns about slippage in the capital programme; that it didn't wish to see any reduction in skilled staff to carry out capital projects; and that if necessary more staff should be employed to ensure projects remain on target; and
- (2) that Cabinet be urged to improve ways of accurate forecasting for Capital projects.