



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Held: THURSDAY, 4 MARCH 2010 at 5.30pm

P.R.E.S.E.N.T.

Councillor Grant– Chair
Councillor Bhatti – Vice-Chair

Councillor Glover	Councillor Hall
Councillor Joshi	Councillor Newcombe
Councillor Senior	

Also In Attendance

Councillor Connelly	Cabinet Lead Member for Culture
Councillor Russell	Cabinet Lead Member for Environment

164. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Potter and Suleman.

166. EXTENSION TO THE STREET DRINKING BAN IN LEICESTER

The Strategic Director, Adults and communities, submits a report that asked Members to consider a proposed extension to the existing street drinking ban in Leicester.

In addition to the main report, Ann Habens, Director, Safer and Stronger Communities explained that a large coloured map was available to Members which outlined clearly the proposed extension of the boundary. Ann also explained that the ban was part of an overall approach to tackle the problem of street drinking, and that this encompassed a multi-agency plan, including consulting with street-drinkers. She stated that the fundamental purpose of the extension was to increase public confidence and to significantly improve the areas affected by it.

As a matter of clarification, Ann confirmed that the wards affected by the extension to the street drinking ban were Castle, Coleman and Charnwood.

Members of the Board welcomed the proposed extension, and several asked whether the extension could be rolled-across the whole of the City. In response to this, Ann explained that current legislation would not permit this, as areas that prohibited the consumption of alcohol had to be clearly defined, and had to relate to crime statistics. She added that the police would favour such a move, but that from a legal position, this could not be considered. On hearing this, several Members of the Board favoured a change in national legislation on the matter in order to allow local authorities to consider issuing 'blanket' bans on street drinking.

In response to questions around whether those areas included as part of the extension could be effectively policed, Ann confirmed that the Police Superintendant had ensured that all areas covered would be properly policed. The extension was also seen as positively assisting the police in terms of moving offenders on, as in the past, they had been moved onto adjacent areas, many of which are now included within the extension.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and that the recommendations for the Cabinet be supported.