



Leicester
City Council

MINUTE
EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the
PERFORMANCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY SELECT COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2010 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Coley – Chair
Councillor Desai – Vice Chair

Councillor Bayford
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Grant

Councillor Chowdhury
Councillor Draycott
Councillor Kitterick

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57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

61. PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR QUARTER ONE 2010/11

The Chief Executive submitted a report which presented a summary of performance against the priorities set out in *One Leicester* for the first quarter of 2010/11.

In his introduction, the Special Projects Manager outlined the key areas of good performance, those areas at risk and where no data had been received. He also indicated that the Government was planning on undertaking a radical review of the performance framework. He sought Members' views on the kinds of areas which it was felt Leicester's performance should be judged on. He also noted that the forthcoming budget situation would have an effect on performance and expectations.

Some comments were made on the following areas:-

Overall crime levels – in view of the continuing below target performance and forthcoming budget situation, it was felt that a senior city Police Officer should be invited to a future meeting to discuss the situation in the city.

Sickness absence – it was felt that more progress should have been made in this area, particularly through the performance management of staff.

Improvements in this area would be especially important in an era of cuts.

Domestic Violence – concern was expressed at the direction of travel for repeat incidences. Further information was requested to explain the figures.

A number of questions were raised about the shape of future performance reporting, particularly as two indicators in this report could not be compiled due to national surveys being dropped and that the Audit Commission was now being abolished. The Special Projects Manager commented that there was currently a lack of clarity about future performance arrangements, but it was likely that there would be more reporting to the public rather than through audit arrangements. The Local Government Association had been lobbying for self assessment arrangements. It was expected that there would be more choice over future audit arrangements and there would be a reduction in audit fees due to fewer inspections.

It was further commented that if performance information was to be reported to the public, it would need to be in a more accessible format than current committee reports. The Special Projects Manager noted and accepted this point.

A question was asked about whether an internal use of the waste product, FLOC could be created, and whether there were possible options to burn it to create a source of energy. It was commented that commercial uses of FLOC were restricted to where there was an existing burning process already going on, generally using fossil fuels. The Chief Finance Officer undertook to seek a detailed response to the member concerned.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That a senior city Police Officer be invited to a future meeting to discuss concerns about crime levels and future risks if the numbers of Police were reduced; and
- (2) That Cabinet be recommended to maintain a continuing strong focus on reducing sickness absence.