



Leicester
City Council

Minute Extract

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: MONDAY, 31 JANUARY 2011 at 5.30 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Corrall – Chair
Councillor Senior – Vice-Chair

Councillor Cleaver
Councillor Johnson

Councillor Potter
Councillor Suleman

Co-opted Members

Mr Mohammed
Alauddin Al-Azad - Parent Governor (Primary /Special Needs)
Mr Edward Hayes - Roman Catholic Diocese

Also In Attendance

Councillor Dempster Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Schools

Phil Fuller – Youth Representative
Will Hough – Youth Representative
Mu-Hamid Pathan – Youth Representative

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70. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Desai.

71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Cleaver declared a personal non prejudicial interest in item 7. 'Any Other Urgent Business – Capital Programme 2010/11', as she was the Chair of Goldhill Adventure Playground.

Councillor Mugglestone declared a personal non prejudicial interest in item 7. 'Any Other Urgent Business – Capital Programme 2010/11', as he was a school governor at Upplands Infant School.

Councillor Potter declared a personal non prejudicial interest in item 6, '2011/12 Budget Proposal – Investing In Our Children', as she had a child in mainstream education and in item 'Any Other Urgent Business – Rushey Mead Business Case', as she was the Chair of the Planning and Development Control Committee.

Councillor Senior declared a personal non prejudicial interest in item 6, '2011/12 Budget Proposal – Investing In Our Children', as she worked in the Voluntary Sector and her husband was an employee of the Council, although not directly linked to Children's Services.

76. 2011/12 BUDGET PROPOSALS - INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN

The Strategic Director, Children, and the Chief Finance Officer submitted a report that outlined the 2011/12 budget proposal for Investing in our Children.

Letter from The Diocese of Nottingham

The Roman Catholic Diocese co-opted Member submitted a letter from the Diocese regarding the removal of some dedicated school bus services to English Martyrs, St. Patrick's and Holy Cross Schools. The Chair agreed to accept the letter as a comment and explained that this item would be covered under the Highways and Transportation section of the budget and therefore any comments would be passed to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for consideration.

The Cabinet Lead, Children and Schools, explained that although this was not her service area she believed there were alternatives to the dedicated school bus and that the Council would work closely with the bus companies and schools. The Director, Planning and Commissioning, believed that from the eight routes identified in the letter six had alternative routes to the schools, although this might involve a change of bus.

Councillor Suleman expressed concern that there could be a detrimental effect on the children that use the service and agreed to raise the matter at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Some Members voiced their concern that the current arrangements for free school transport provision for children attending faith schools arguably discriminated against children who did not attend faith schools, and that the removal of the service might restore parity.

The Roman Catholic Diocese co-opted Member emphasised the contribution that these schools contributed to the city and attracted pupils from outside Leicester. He felt that it would be important to consult on this issue before the decision was made.

RESOLVED:

1. that the report be noted and the recommendations for Cabinet endorsed.
2. that Members be provided with information on the ten vacant properties within Children's Services.
3. that the minutes of the meeting be passed to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to note comments on the proposed removal of dedicated school bus services.

