



Leicester
City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY 2013 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Cassidy (Chair)
Councillor Joshi (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Dr Barton	Councillor Dr Moore
Councillor Cleaver	Councillor Newcombe
Councillor Cooke	Councillor Porter
Councillor Grant	Councillor Waddington
Councillor Kitterick	Councillor Willmott

Also present:

Councillor Clair	Assistant Mayor (Culture, Leisure and Sport)
Councillor Clarke	
Councillor Cutkelvin	
Councillor Dempster	Assistant Mayor (Children, Young People and Schools)
Councillor Palmer	Deputy City Mayor
Councillor Sood	Assistant Mayor (Community Involvement)
Sir Peter Soulsby	City Mayor

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153. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Joshi declared an Other Disclosable Interest in agenda item 9(a), "Scrutiny Commission Work Programmes: Revisiting the Mental Health Scrutiny Review for Working Age Adults by the Health and Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission", as he worked for a voluntary organisation that provided help and support to people suffering from mental health difficulties.

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, this interest was not considered so significant that it was likely to prejudice Councillor Joshi's

judgement of the public interest. He was not, therefore, required to withdraw from the meeting.

159. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

The Scrutiny Support Manager submitted a report giving an overview of the content of the draft Scrutiny Annual Report for 2012-2013. The Chair drew attention to the wide range of work done by the Scrutiny Commissions and this Committee over the year and thanked all concerned. The Scrutiny Commission Chairs then introduced their respective parts of the report.

Councillor Dr Moore advised that the Adult Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Commission had tried to undertake rigorous scrutiny during the year. In answer to a question, Councillor Dr Moore advised that details of improvements to private homes were set out in the report. However, this would be the responsibility of a new Scrutiny Commission after May 2013, so the current Commission was not in a position to make any plans for further scrutiny of this for the future.

Councillor Willmott thanked Councillor Connelly, the former Chair of the Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission, for his hard work. He noted that the main areas of focus for the Commission during the coming year were likely to be Looked After Children, educational attainment and the proposed budget reductions for children's centres.

Councillor Waddington explained that the Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Commission had considered recommendations to enhance the City Mayor's Economic Action Plan. The Commission would continue to scrutinise the adult education offering, as well as looking at new issues such as the level of skills in the city, the employment of women and long-term unemployment of young people. Consideration also would be given to how tourism could lead to the availability of better jobs.

Councillor Cooke advised that:-

- The Health and Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission had been very involved in work to try and reverse the government's suggestion that the paediatric congenital heart unit at Glenfield Hospital should move to Birmingham. There had been a series of delays in the government's consideration of this, but a report was now with the Secretary of State and it was hoped that a decision would be announced in the first week of June;
- Although the Save our Surgery campaign by supporters of Leeds Children's Heart Unit had been successful in obtaining a court decision that the consultation was flawed, the government had responded to this by removing the Leeds unit from its recommendations. The Health and Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission therefore had written to the Secretary of State to express its concerns about this;

- The Francis Report on failures in Staffordshire hospitals had found that, although scrutiny had been done, it had not been done effectively. Therefore, this Council's Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission would be asking for an independent review of whether it was fit for purpose. It was suggested that all Scrutiny Commissions could consider whether this would be a useful exercise; and
- Clarity was awaited on who would be chairing the scrutiny body at Leicestershire County Council with responsibility for health. They would also chair the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Joint Health Scrutiny Committee. Depending on the results of this, there could be more engagement between the three authorities this year than there had been last year.

Councillor Dr Barton thanked everyone on the Heritage, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission for their achievements over the past year. The Commission had worked jointly with other Commissions where appropriate and a plan of work for the coming year had been initiated, which it was hoped would still proceed.

Councillor Cleaver thanked Members and officers for their work and support for the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission over the past year. The Commission had scrutinised some interesting subjects in a time of severe financial reductions. Councillor Cleaver particularly thanked the Commission Vice-Chair, (Councillor Cutkelvin), for her support.

Councillor Newcombe explained that the Transport and Climate Change Scrutiny Commission had completed some major areas of work over the past year. He thanked the other Commission members for a positive year and wished the reconfigured Commission good luck with its work.

The Committee noted that the final version of the Annual Report would be sent to the current Commission chairs for checking.

<u>Action:</u>	<u>By:</u>
The final version of the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2012-2013 to be sent to the current Commission chairs for checking before publication.	Scrutiny Support Manager