



Leicester
City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND SCHOOLS SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: TUESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2019 at 6:15 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Dawood (Chair)
Councillor Cole (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Cassidy Councillor Chamund
Councillor Hunter Councillor Pantling
Councillor Riyait

In Attendance:

Councillor Russell, Deputy City Mayor with responsibilities for Children, Young People's Services

Also Present:

Joseph Wyglendacz, Teaching Unions Representative

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53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

60. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2019/20 TO 2021/22

The Director of Finance submitted a report setting out the City Mayor's proposed General Fund Revenue budget for 2019/20 to 2021/22.

The Chair referred to the summary indicating that the Council was enduring the

most severe period of spending cuts ever experienced. Because of the cuts, the Council's budget had fallen but despite this spending on social care had increased over the period. Spending on all other services would fall from £192m to an estimated £99m, a cut of 60% in real terms.

The Strategic Director of Social Care and Education introduced the report. The Strategic Director advised Members that any changes to service budgets were undertaken by a well-established programme of service reviews.

In discussion on this report the following points were made by Commission members:

- In respect of the national picture, comparisons and examples of authorities known to be facing more severe difficulties due to a lack of reserves were provided.
- In terms of savings targets, it was acknowledged that service changes to children's centres, youth services, and youth offending had resulted in a cost reduction and that other areas would now be considered to control spending.
- It was noted that reductions in agency staff costs due to the increased stability of the workforce had also brought down the budget pressure in this area but that there was further work to be done to control this area of budget spend.
- It was confirmed that current budget pressures would not lead to young people becoming unsafe or put at risk and the statutory duty of the Council was clarified in this regard.
- The savings on premises costs and revised leasehold arrangements due to children's centres being located on established school sites, including academies, were explained and noted.
- The involvement and engagement with young people and relevant groups concerning the budget and its implications on their income was noted.
- In terms of the Spending Review 4 Programme within the report, on services for children aged 0-19, the position was explained, and it was requested that further information be provided on the Health Visitors' / Healthy Child programmes, in consultation with Public Health colleagues and the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission.

In concluding the report, the Chair asked that further information on any emerging Government proposals on public spending which may impact on children's services be received by the Commission as they develop.

AGREED:

- 1) That the Overview Select Committee be asked to take the comments of this Commission recorded above in to account when considering the City Mayor's proposed General Fund Revenue Budget for 2019/20 to 2021/22;
- 2) That further information be provided on the Spending Review 4 Programme (Health Visitors' / Healthy Child Programme), in consultation with Public Health colleagues and the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission; and
- 3) That that further information be provided on any emerging Government proposals on public spending which may impact on children's services as they develop.