



Leicester
City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: TUESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2020 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor March (Vice-Chair in the Chair)

Councillor Batool
Councillor Kitterick

Councillor Kaur Saini
Councillor Thalukdar

In Attendance

Councillor Russell – Deputy City Mayor, Social Care and Anti-Poverty

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45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the Chair Councillor Joshi. Councillor March as Vice Chair to the Chair for the meeting.

Apologies for absence were also received from Councillor Khote and Ruth Lake.

Members wished Councillor Khote a speedy recovery.

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

51. DRAFT GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET REPORT 2020-21

The Director of Finance submitted a report setting out the City Mayor's proposed budget for 2020/21 to 2021/22. The Commission was recommended to consider and comment on the Adult Social Care element of the budget. The Commission's comments would be forwarded to the Overview Select Committee as part of its consideration of the report before presentation to the meeting of Council on 19th February 2020.

Councillor Russell, Deputy City Mayor, Social Care and Anti-Poverty introduced the report. The Commission was asked to note the budget presented was for

one year, with no financial certainty beyond 2020/21, leaving the budget for Adult Social Care vulnerable. It was further noted that steadily increasing demand, with increased costs had made it a volatile service budget area.

Martin Judson, Head of Finance, said the Service was reliant on the Better Care Fund monies of £28.5m each year and the budget had to factor in the increasing needs of existing service users at 5.5% (£10m) per annum. A growth in service user numbers was also expected of 0.5% per annum and an increase in the National Living Wage at 6%, which equated to an annual overall growth in costs of rate of 11.5% for 2020/21. As a result an additional £3m of growth has been included in the 2020/21 budget. Beyond 2020/21 there would be an increasing gap between resources and expenditure of at least £15m per annum unless a long-term funding solution was provided by central government.

It was noted that £2.5m had been achieved towards a £5m savings target under the Spending Review 4 Programme so far, and work was ongoing to find further savings and the remaining £2.5m was not attached to any particular review.

The Deputy City Mayor informed the meeting that a report on the charging policy would be brought to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Commission. She noted the Enablement Service costs were approximately £1m but believed it offset costs of £1m and if funding was ceased the Department would see an increase in costs elsewhere in the budget in future years. It was noted the Department was currently meeting need but was under immense pressure as demand rose.

The Chair asked if the Council sought assurances from other health and social care providers in the city, for example, Leicester Partnership NHS Trust, that adequate, timely support and budgeting was provided to the increasing needs of vulnerable adults. The Deputy City Mayor affirmed that the range of partners working with the Council functioned together to maximise resources.

The Commission acknowledged the difference between available budget and expenditure and the lack of ability to forward plan, and the growing complexity of needs for people below retirement age with deep concern.

AGREED:

that:

1. The Commission note the report;
2. The Commission raise concerns relating to severe cost pressures on Adult Social Care services for the future.
3. Comments and recommendation from the Commission on the budget item go to Overview Select Committee to inform Budget Council.