



Leicester
City Council

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the
ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: TUESDAY, 19 JANUARY 2021 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Joshi (Chair)
Councillor March (Vice Chair)

Councillor Batool
Councillor Kaur Saini

Councillor Kitterick
Councillor Thalukdar

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86. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and reminded everyone it was a virtual meeting, as permitted under Section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 to enable meetings to take place whilst observing social distancing measures. The procedure for the meeting was outlined to those present. At the invitation of the Chair, all Members and officers present at the meeting introduced themselves.

87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Joshi declared an Other Disclosable Interest in that his wife worked for the Reablement Team at Leicester City Council.

88. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED:

That the minutes of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission Meeting held on 10 November 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

89. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer reported that none were received.

90. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer reported that that none were received.

92. DRAFT GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND DRAFT CAPITAL BUDGET 2021/21

The Director of Finance submitted a report setting out the City Mayor's proposed budget for 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 in February 2021.

Martin Judson the Head of Finance presented the report to the Commission and noted that the draft budget was a stop gap one-year budget with minimal changes and that finances were to be reviewed again this year in the light of greater certainty over government funding and the impact of the pandemic.

It was noted that an additional £10 Million had been allocated to the adult social care budget, £3 Million of which was funded through central government funding and £3.6m would be raised from the social care precept on the Council Tax. The overall council budget has been balanced in 2021/22 by using £20 million from reserves.

As part of the discussions the Commission discussed extensively the areas of the budget for Adult Social Care. It was noted that the £5.5 Million Substance Misuse budget was now part of the Public Health budget. It was noted that the the cost of care packages were budgeted to increase by 9.3% annually as a result of increasing need together with fee increases of 2.3% which are determined mainly by the increase in national living wage rates in 2021/22

It was noted that the department were ensuring preventative services were commissioned and that there was investment in the reablement and enablement services.

Members of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission raised their concerns over the increase in care package costs of £12.5 million. It was suggested that a detailed report be brought back to the Commission to allow for in depth scrutiny.

The Deputy City Mayor noted that the Adult Social Care cost increases were a national issue. The government have been promising to reform the funding for adult social care for a number of years and we are still waiting for the green paper.

Members of the Commission were concerned with the pressure on communities that a rise in Council Tax would have as a result of the social care precept. It was noted that there was a range of support available for those

vulnerable families that would be impacted with the increase in Council Tax.

The Director of Adult Social Care noted that, the department undertake significant benchmarking of the spend and how it is distributed, closely and extensively with other cities. The Commission were reassured that necessary services would continue.

AGREED:

that:

1. The Commission note the report,
2. And that, a detailed report be brought back to the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission on the increasing cost of packages of £12.5 million.