



Leicester
City Council

Extract

Minutes of the Meeting of the
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: THURSDAY, 27 JANUARY 2022 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Thalukdar(Chair)

Councillor Joshi
Councillor Nangreave

Councillor O'Donnell,
Councillor Waddington

In Attendance:

Councillor Clair, Deputy City Mayor for Culture, Leisure, Sport, and Regulatory
Services
Councillor Master, Assistant City Mayor for Neighbourhood Services

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Solanki and Westley.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to disclose any pecuniary or other interests they may have in the business to be discussed.

Councillor Nangreave declared an interest in Appendix D to the report, Statement of Licensing Policy 2022-2027, namely that licenses were currently being considered in her ward.

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the interest was not considered so significant that it was likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgement of the public interest. The Member was not, therefore, required to withdraw from the meeting.

7. DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23 AND DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23

The Deputy Director of Finance submitted a report setting out the City Mayor's proposed budget for 2022/23. The Commission was recommended to consider and comment on the Neighbourhood Services element of the report. 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 23rd February 2022.

Amy Oliver, Head of Finance, presented the item, it was noted that:

- The main issues affecting the budget were the decade of austerity, the Covid pandemic, and the rising costs of Adult Social Care. Of those the latter was most significant.
- The Government Finance Settlement was better than expected but was still only for one year.
- It was noted as per recent years reserves would be used to balance the budget. However, it was projected that these reserves would run out by 2024/25 and savings would need to be found to balance the budget.
- It was noted a 3% Council Tax increase was proposed as part of the revenue budget report.

In response to Member's questions, it was noted that:

- The report going to Full Council would be the final budget with updated figures following the Government's funding settlement.
- The inflation situation was under review and would be considered in the final budget figures.
- It was noted in Neighbourhood and Environmental Services there were some savings built into 2022/23 budget. However, they predominantly related to income generation.
- It was noted that future budget savings would go through the relevant consultation process and decisions would be taken as savings were identified.
- It was noted in the revenue report that there were areas of budget shortfalls in relation to income. It was confirmed that this mainly related to areas where income was being impacted as a direct result of the pandemic, such as parking income and one-off covid money was being used to fund these budget gaps.
- A fundamental budget review was ongoing, with the aim of assessing where the best place to make savings would be, as well as generating more income.
- The only Capital Projects for the Service that had an impact on the Revenue Budget were leases for equipment for the Parks Service which used prudential borrowing.

AGREED:

That

1. The reports be noted.
2. The Commission recommends that the Council explore how more income can be generated for services.