



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: TUESDAY, 15 JANUARY 2019 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Cutkelvin (Chair)
Councillor Fonseca (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Dr Moore

Councillor Pantling

Councillor Dr Sangster

In Attendance:

Councillor Clarke – Deputy City Mayor with responsibility for the Environment, Public Health and Health Integration

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60. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chaplin, Councillor Cleaver and Mr Micheal Smith, Healthwatch.

Councillor Sangster arrived shortly after the meeting had started.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

Councillor Dr Sangster left the meeting prior to the consideration of the Draft Revenue Budget 2019 / 20.

69. DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2019/20 (PUBLIC HEALTH BUDGET)

At the request of a Member, the Chair announced that this item of business would be brought forward on the agenda and would be considered ahead of the Turning Point Performance Report.

The Director of Finance submitted a report which set out the City Mayor's

proposed budget for 2019/20 to 2021/22 and the Commission was recommended to consider and comment on the Public Health element of the budget.

The Deputy City Mayor with responsibility for the Environment, Public Health and Health Integration introduced the report and gave credit to the former Director of Public Health Ruth Tennant who had managed to deliver the service during her tenure, despite severe funding cuts.

The Deputy City Mayor added that the Public Health department was expecting to contribute towards the Spending Review 4 Programme, with a key area being a review of services provided to children and young people age 0-19 years. It was noted that Public Health was not an isolated service but impacted on many other services that the Council provided and scrutiny of the 0-19 review by the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission would be welcomed.

A Member noted that a one-off corporate contingency of £1.4m had been created in 2019/20 to manage the significant pressures that would arise during the year and she questioned whether this sum would be sufficient. Members heard that the budget included use of corporate managed reserves, earmarked departmental reserves and that the contingency fund was in addition to the already utilised use of reserves. However, it was acknowledged that use of reserves was a 'one-off' solution to budget balancing as there would be no more money to put back into reserves when that money was spent unless identified from other savings or funding sources.

A Member referred to the cost pressures as detailed in section 7.15 of the report including an estimated £570k because of a national pay award for NHS staff working in services commissioned by the Council. The Acting Director of Public Health said that the Council commissioned several services and if a NHS pay award affected staff in those services, the Council may be expected to find the extra funding to meet that shortfall.

The Chair commented that Scrutiny Members would be pleased that one of the recommendations of the Draft Revenue Budget was to emphasise the need for outstanding spending reviews to be delivered on time *after appropriate scrutiny*.

AGREED:

that the Draft Revenue Budget 2019/ 20 (Public Health element) be noted and Members' comments be forwarded to the meeting of the Overview Select Committee on 7 February 2019, prior to Council on 20 February 2019.