



Leicester
City Council

EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the
OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE

Held: THURSDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2023 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Cassidy (Chair)
Councillor Gee (Vice Chair)

Councillor Batool
Councillor Pantling

Councillor Westley

Councillor Porter
Councillor Thalukdar

Also present:

Sir Peter Soulsby
Councillor Cutkelvin
Councillor Myers

City Mayor
Assistant City Mayor
Assistant City Mayor

Alretaj Al-Showali
Dena Al-Showali
Henry Zawadzki

Youth Representative
Youth Representative
Youth Representative

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78. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Halford, Joel, and Joshi.

79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillors Thalukdar and Westley make a declaration in relation to the report on the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2023/24 that they had relatives who were Council tenants.

87. DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET

The Director of Finance submitted the Draft Revenue Budget 2023/24 alongside the minute extracts from the Scrutiny Commissions discussion on the Budget.

The Committee was asked to consider the draft report and the comments made by the Scrutiny Commissions, and to pass its comments on those to the meeting of Council for consideration

The Director of Finance presented the item, it was noted that the context to the budget was a decade of austerity as well as cuts expected from 2025/26, inflationary costs, and the rising costs of Adult Social Care. The budget gap of £33m in 2023/24 was expected to rise to £66m by 2025/26. The final Government Finance Settlement had now been received, resulting in a slightly worsening budget gap position. The budget gap would be managed through the managed reserves strategy alongside identifying savings.

In response to questions from Members and Youth Representatives, it was noted that:

- The previous underspend for Adult Social Care had gone into the reserves which would be used to manage the overall budget gap.
- £1.2m was spent in 2022/23 on heating the Council's Leisure Centres.
- A 5% Council Tax increase was proposed, including a 2% Social Care Levy.
- Costs of SEND Taxi Contracts were rising significantly, due to this there was an effort to move towards Personal Transport Budgets for SEND children which were much cheaper and provided independence.
- There were efforts to move the Council's fleet over to electric vehicles which would be positive for the environment and save costs in the long run.

The Chair praised the leadership of the Council on the managed reserves strategy which had enabled the Council to have the reserves to manage the current budget gap.

A Member reminded the Committee that the financial crash of 2008 took place under a Labour Government and argued that the Labour Party was untrustworthy with the economy.

The Chair moved that the Committee note and endorse the Draft Revenue Budget 2023/24. This was seconded by Councillor Gee and upon being put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED.

AGREED:

1. That the Committee notes and endorses the Draft Revenue Budget for 2023/24.
2. That the Committee requests that Officers let Committee Members and

Youth Representative know where joint funding for High Needs Children came from.