



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH INTEGRATION SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: TUESDAY, 21 JANUARY 2025 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Pickering - Chair

Councillor Bonham
Councillor Dempster
Councillor Russell
Councillor Zaman

Councillor Clarke
Councillor Haq
Councillor Sahu

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In attendance:

Deputy City Mayor – Councillor Russell
Assistant City Mayor – Councillor Dempster

103. GENERAL FUND BUDGET PROPOSALS 2025/26

The Head of Finance presented the Revenue Budget 2025/26 and it was noted that:

- The budget had gone to each scrutiny commission, ahead of Full Council in February.
- The financial outlook faced by the council was the most severe we've known.
- Some authorities have issued Section 114 notices. The budget strategy has aimed to avoid this and ensure financial sustainability until at least 2027/28.
- Due to a decade of austerity, many services had already been cut so the scope for savings had been reduced dramatically.
- Modest funding had been provided by Government to help fund statutory services, but they have stated there is no magic wand to address local government funding.
- The details of the Public Health grant for 2025/26 had yet to be released.
- The council's financial strategy had 5 strands:
 1. Releasing one-off funds totalling £110m to buy time.
 2. Reducing the approved capital programme by £13m
 3. Selling non-residential properties to secure an additional £60m.

4. Constraining growth in those statutory services under pressure.
5. Making ongoing savings of £20m per year in the revenue budget – these can be found in the agenda pack for each area but does not include Childrens, Adult Social Care or Public Health.
 - There may be further pressures created, and with one-off savings being used it was essential that there would be ongoing savings.

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

- It was disappointing the Public Health figures are not available for this commission.
- It was important that other areas which may have an impact on aspects of Public Health had been considered such as budget proposals for the built environment or Adult Social Care.
- As part of this, health partners reassured Members that pathways had been considered so that provision would not change and ensure no gaps are created by changes in the budget.

AGREED:

- The Commission noted the report.