



Leicester
City Council

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the
OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE

Held: THURSDAY, 15 JANUARY 2015 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Dawood (Chair)

Councillor Senior (Vice Chair)

Councillor Chaplin	Councillor Newcombe
Councillor Cooke	Councillor Porter
Councillor Grant	Councillor Singh
Councillor Kitterick	Councillor Waddington

Also Present:

Sir Peter Soulsby - City Mayor
Councillor Palmer - Deputy City Mayor

Youth Council Representatives:

Arshad Daud
Nikhil Gondalia
Brahmpreet Kaur Guati

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73. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Osman, Westley, and Willmott.

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Senior declared an Other Disclosable Interest in items 10 and 11 of the published Agenda "Draft General Fund Budget 2015/16 to 2016/17" and "Draft Capital Programme 2015/16", as her partner was employed by the Council.

Councillor Porter declared an Other Disclosable Interest in item 12 of the published Agenda "City Council Golf Courses – Call-in of Decision", as he was involved in campaigns for the retention of open spaces.

Councillor Clarke declared an Other Disclosable Interest in items 10 and 11 of the published Agenda "Draft General Fund Budget 2015/16 to 2016/17" and "Draft Capital Programme 2015/16", as a member of his family was employed by the Council.

Councillor Newcombe declared an Other Disclosable Interest in items 10 and 11 of the published Agenda "Draft General Fund Budget 2015/16 to 2016/17" and "Draft Capital Programme 2015/16", as members of his family were employed by the Council.

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the above interests were not considered so significant that they were likely to prejudice the Councillors judgement of the public interest.

The Councillors were not, therefore, required to withdraw from the meeting.

83. DRAFT GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16 TO 2016/17

The Director of Finance submitted a draft of a report which was to be submitted to Full Council on 25 February 2015 to consider the City Mayor's proposed budget for 2015/16 to 2016/17. It was reported that the budget plan covered the same period as the Government's national spending plans and identified the subsequent impact.

Minute extracts from the following Commission meetings were circulated and noted:

- Housing Scrutiny Commission – 10 December 2014
- Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission – 6 January 2015
- Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission – 8 January 2015

The City Mayor was invited to comment on the report and he referred to the need to continue to undertake spending reviews in accordance with the approach summarised in the report.

In considering the report the Committee made the following points:

- It was requested that monitoring information should be submitted to Housing Scrutiny Commission before any further cuts to the homelessness budget were made.
- In respect of the issues highlighted within the minute circulated from the

meeting of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission, members considered that a danger existed in identifying targets for savings from care packages, as this might imply that financial factors affected assessments. The preference was to describe the review work in narrative form without a savings target. The City Mayor commented that, given the dire financial situation, every service was being pressed to find savings, and adult social care was such a large part of the budget that it could not be excluded. It was therefore right to set targets for reviews, to help ensure that the department focused on the need to make the savings. This did not imply that individual packages would be top-sliced: they would be assessed in line with the Council's legal duties.

- The need to ensure that adequate provision existed for school transport within the Childrens, Young People and Schools' allocations was expressed, as it was reported that parents were facing financial difficulties in enabling children to get to school where allocated places were more than 2 miles from home.
- In response to a question, the City Mayor commented on the reasons why it was appropriate to make a contribution from the revenue budget for the capital programme.

RESOLVED:

that the points raised in the debate, and the recommendations to be considered at Full Council, be noted.