



Leicester
City Council

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCRUTINY
COMMISSION**

Held: WEDNESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2017 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Cutkelvin (Chair)

Councillor Aldred
Councillor Dr Chowdhury

Councillor Fonseca
Councillor Hunter

In Attendance:

Councillor Master, Assistant City Mayor - Neighbourhood Services
Councillor Waddington, Assistant City Mayor - Jobs & Skills

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62. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gugnani and Councillor Halford.

63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Dr Chowdhury declared Other Disclosable Interests in the following agenda items:

- Agenda item 8, "Community Asset Transfer Update", in that he worked in a voluntary organisation that could be involved in asset transfer in the future;
- Agenda item 10, "Citywide Voluntary and Community Sector Support", in that he had received support under the contract discussed in the report and the organisation he worked for was a delivery partner for a project funded through the European Social Fund and the Lottery Fund; and
- Agenda item 11, "Response to the Leicester Advice Sector: A Report Outlining the Risk and Demands in the City", in that his employer received

some funding from the Council and HMRC to provide advice to city residents.

Councillor Fonseca declared Other Disclosable Interests in the following agenda items:

- Agenda item 10, “Citywide Voluntary and Community Sector Support”, in that he was a member of a voluntary organisation affiliated to Voluntary Action LeicesterShire (VAL) that had received assistance from VAL some years previously to frame a constitution; and
- Agenda item 11, “Response to the Leicester Advice Sector: A Report Outlining the Risk and Demands in the City”, in that he had done some voluntary work with the Citizens Advice Bureau, (now Citizens Advice Leicestershire), approximately three years ago.

In accordance with the Council’s Code of Conduct, these interests were not considered so significant that they were likely to prejudice the Councillors’ judgement of the public interest. They were not therefore required to withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the relevant items.

73. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2017/18 TO 2019/20

The Director of Finance submitted a report setting out the City Mayor’s proposed budget for 2017/18 to 2019/20.

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services introduced the report, explaining that the report did not contain a lot of detail, as this was scrutinised through the various spending reviews being undertaken in service areas. The Commission noted this, but expressed some disappointment that it was not included in the report, as this would have facilitated consideration of issues such as alternative ways of releasing funds.

The Commission welcomed the increase in managed reserves, but felt that it would have been useful to know which service areas had made the savings discussed in the report.

It was noted that the report made reference to anticipated financial difficulties in coming years, but did not contain information on the approach that would be taken to these challenges, (for example, what would be prioritised). This was felt to be an omission, as it made it difficult to comment on the proposed budget.

AGREED:

- 1) That the report be noted; and
- 2) That the Overview Select Committee be asked to take account of the comments made by this Commission in its consideration of the General Fund revenue budget for 2017/18 to 2019/20, particularly noting the Commission’s disappointment at the lack of detail contained in the report.

