



Leicester
City Council

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
HERITAGE, CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT SCRUTINY COMMISSION**

Held: THURSDAY, 12 JANUARY 2017 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Bajaj (Chair)
Councillor Unsworth (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Dr Barton
Councillor Dawood

Councillor Shelton
Councillor Singh-Johal

In Attendance:

Councillor Clair, Assistant City Mayor - Culture, Leisure and Sport

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46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Govind.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

56. 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 Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment introduced the elements of the report relating to his service area, explaining that savings of approximately £1.5 million needed to be made by 2020 from across the Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment division.

Consideration was being given to how this would be achieved, but it was hoped that increased income, rather than reduced expenditure, would help the division meet this target. For example, things such as increased sponsorships, the transfer of the management of assets, income generation throughout the

service and revenue savings at De Montfort Hall following recent capital investment there could be used.

The Assistant City Mayor for Culture, Leisure and Sport noted that savings also needed to be made in relation to Parks and Open Spaces, which it was hoped could be achieved largely through remodelling the grounds maintenance budget. In addition, a review of Sports Services was being undertaken, which needed to identify £2 million of savings. No decisions on where the savings would be made had been taken to date.

Concern was expressed that it was proposed that Western Park would no longer be entered for a Green Flag award. As well as impacting on the standard to which the park was maintained, the loss of Green Flag status could restrict the ability to apply for certain funding, (such as Heritage Lottery grants).

In reply, the Assistant City Mayor for Culture, Leisure and Sport advised the Commission that the costs of retaining Green Flag status included an entry fee of approximately £4,000 per park, plus an assessment fee and maintenance costs. In addition, maintaining the records of the Green Flag parks took a lot of officer time. Three parks would continue to be entered for Green Flag status. These included Abbey Park, which was felt to be a “city park”, due to the number of events held there throughout the year.

The Commission noted this response, but stressed that, where investment was being made, care needed to be taken to ensure that it was spread evenly across the city and not focussed in segregated areas, which could lead to some areas receiving more investment than others.

The Assistant City Mayor for Culture, Leisure and Sport offered to keep the Commission advised of progress with spending reviews and to keep Members updated on identified issues of concern.

AGREED:

- 1) That the report be noted;
- 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; and
- 3) That the Assistant City Mayor for Culture, Leisure and Sport be asked to keep the Commission advised of progress with spending reviews of services falling within the Commission’s remit.