APPENDIX C

Leicester City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND SCHOOLS SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: TUESDAY, 22 AUGUST 2017 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:
Councillor Dr Moore (Chair)

Councillor Chohan
Councillor Malik
Councillor Riyait
Councillor Willmott

Co-opted Members (Voting):
Mr Gerry Hirst – Roman Catholic Diocese

In Attendance:
Councillor Russell – Assistant City Mayor, Children Young People & Schools

Also Present:
Ms Rabiha Hannan – Muslim Faith Representative

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17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Aldred, Councillor Cole and Mr Al-Azad.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have in the business on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

25. CALL-IN OF DECISION - YOUTH SERVICE REMODELLING

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report relating to the Call-In of Executive Decision: Youth Service Remodelling. The decision had been called-in under Part 4D, Rule 12f of the Council's constitution and subsequently the matter had been referred to the Commission.

The Commission were recommended to:

a) Comment on the specific issues raised by the call-in, for forwarding to the next meeting of full Council on 5th October 2017;
b) Resolve that the call-in be withdrawn;
c) Note the report, which would have the effect of rolling the call-in forward to Council without comment.

The sponsor Councillor Willmott confirmed that the call-in was not being withdrawn.

The Chair invited the sponsor Councillor Willmott to address the Committee which included the following points:

- At the last meeting the Commission agreed to request the executive to reconsider the proposals for Youth Service Remodelling yet a few days later the decision was published and that did not mention or address any of the concerns that were raised at the scrutiny meeting on 5th July 2017,
- There was concern about the decision and due process being followed. It was felt there should be consideration by the Executive of the Commissions comments and an acknowledgement that they had considered that,
- It remained a concern that whilst option 2 was the recommended proposal for the revised model it was still a 50% reduction in youth services of the council, as well as a reduction of 1-1 support and a reduction in youth street work across the whole of the city,
- At the last Commission meeting the point was made that when the review of Youth Services was commissioned the department was not aware that for the 6th year running there would be a £7.5million underspend in the budget which it was acknowledged was not a one off underspend,
- There had been no discussion politically of what the £7.5million underspends could be used against and on enquiring with officers members were told there was no allocation for those monies yet. There should be discussion in full Council – as that was the only forum that could affect/review budget decisions – and it ought to be members who suggested what that should be spent on.

Councillor Russell, the Assistant City Mayor for Children, Young People and Schools explained that it had been intended to update scrutiny on the decision taken albeit the decision had now been called-in. Responding to the concerns that the comments of the commission had not been considered she explained that the decision taken did include some changes following comments as well as recognition of the contribution from youth representatives at the last meeting. In terms of where the £7.5million underspend was to be spent this was to be allocated to the Economic Action Plan as agreed and minuted by the Overview Select Committee, although that was now subject of a call-in too.

Members of the commission discussed the call-in further which included the following comments:

- There were strong concerns about 50% cuts being made to the youth service which would put that service in jeopardy, as well as the unknown actual impact of that level of cuts on existing staff,
- The decision would fundamentally weaken the youth service and it was questionable whether the service would be able to deliver on the aims as set out in proposals,
- The remodelling and budget savings decision had been taken together without a wider discussion about what we want the youth service to look like moving forward,
- Concerns had been raised by members of the community and people were speaking out about the cuts to the youth service,
- At the time of making the budget decision members did not know of the underspend or additional monies becoming available *(in Adult Social Care)* which must surely impact on the overall budget, therefore members should have an opportunity to reassess and set priorities.
- The political environment had changed and proposals should at least be delayed until the budget statement in autumn to see the overall budget envelope.

Councillor Russell commented that any wider discussion would need to be understanding of the full breadth of issues across the council. It was important to note that there was a flourishing young people's council and the service wanted to continue with youth participation as far as possible.

The Chair thanked members for their contributions and surmised that based on the discussion that had occurred previously and the comments made today the Commission were not going to resolve to withdraw the call-in.

The Commission were agreed that there should be a wider discussion on the cuts proposed to youth services with more examination of that and a wider discussion of how budgets were deployed. The Commission were also in agreement that Council should reconsider the decision made and revisit the budget.

The Chair confirmed that the call-in would proceed to Council and Council would be asked to consider the Commissions comments.

AGREED:

That the report be noted and that Council be asked to consider the Commission's comments outlined above at the next full Council meeting on 5th October 2017.