

## **Overview Select Committee (OSC) Finance Task Group**

### **Minutes of Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

#### **Present**

Cllr Baljit Singh, Chair of Task Group  
Cllr Virginia Cleaver  
Cllr Malcolm Unsworth  
Cllr Inderjit Gugnani  
Alison Greenhill, Director of Finance  
Amy Oliver, Chief Accountant

#### **Apologies**

Cllr Lynn Moore  
Cllr Ross Grant  
Cllr Diane Cank  
Cllr Nigel Porter  
Cllr Jean Khote  
Cllr Elly Cutkelvin  
Cllr Ratial Govind

#### **1. Revenue Budget Monitoring Period 4 – 2017/18**

- 1.1 Cllr Singh shared the recommendations within the Revenue Monitoring report for period 4.
- 1.2 Cllr Singh noted the continued increase in care packages costs in Adult Social Care for existing service users as their level of need increases. Concerns were raised about Government's lack of policies to allow the Council to properly manage the continued financial pressures.
- 1.3 Members noted the one-off underspend in Adult Social Care through introducing savings earlier than anticipated. Members thanked the department for their work hardwork.
- 1.4 Members sought further information about the Adult Social Care reserve for the voluntary sector.
- 1.5 Members discussed the continued pressures in Children's Services with looked after children numbers increasing to 687 in August from 627 at the same time last year. Members requested assurance from the Director about the decision making process of officers for placing children in external placements.
- 1.6 Members noted the Multi-Systematic-Therapy teams seem to be having a positive impact on diverting children from care.

- 1.7 Members questioned if the Council was managing to retain their newly qualified social workers. Alison Greenhill agreed to get a briefing from the Director on staff retention.
- 1.8 Members asked if the savings identified in Democratic Services were in relation to staff. Alison Greenhill confirmed this was the case and a post holder had taken voluntary redundancy. Alison confirmed that there is a corporate redundancy policy which is always complied with.
- 1.9 Cllr Singh questioned the community capacity building review saving identified in paragraph 4.3. Alison Greenhill confirmed this was a saving identified following a completed review of the funding given to the voluntary sector.
- 1.10 Members requested additional information of the fare changes identified in paragraph 6.2 generating additional income of £75k for the Park and Ride service. A report taken to Economic, Development, Transport and Tourism Scrutiny Commission on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017 is given below;

<http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk:8071/documents/s87014/Park%20Ride.pdf>

- 1.11 Members debated the current cost pressures in the markets. Members identified that the challenge for markets were quality, cost and competition from low cost supermarkets. Members requested more information about how the Council could improve the financial performance of the market.
- 1.12 Members requested additional information on the closure of the Kingfisher intermediate care centre. A link to the decision notice is provided below:

<http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk:8071/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=751>

## **2. Capital Budget Monitoring Period 4 – 2017/18**

- 2.1 Alison Greenhill introduced the new style of reporting capital budgets, mainly distinguishing between projects and work programmes.
- 2.2 Members welcomed the new capital monitoring report, stating it provides an overall summary and clearly identifies projects that need highlighting and action that is required.
- 2.3 Cllr Unsworth questioned if reviews were completed prior to upgrading the Council's software. Alison Greenhill confirmed this was the case and used the Electronic Document System Replacement as an example of this.
- 2.4 Members asked how the Waterside project was proceeding. Alison Greenhill confirmed a partner had been found and the RAG status was currently green meaning everything was going to plan.

- 2.5 Members praised the previous works completed using the Economic Action Plan policy provision and requested more details of the future plans.
- 2.6 Members asked about the delay to the Anchor Centre project. It was confirmed that the original landlord had pulled out and an alternative location had to be sought. This is now on schedule.